

the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Upon redeploying to Germany after fifteen months in Iraq, the battalion conducted reset and full-spectrum operations training in preparation to deploy again in late 2005.

From 2005 to 2007, LTC Williams returned to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army (VCSA). He stood out amongst his peers and made himself an indispensable part of the VCSA's personal staff.

From 2007 to 2009, he was promoted to Colonel and led the division within OCLL that develops the congressional engagement strategy for the Secretary, Chief of Staff, Under Secretary, Vice Chief of Staff, and Sergeant Major of the Army. He performed exceptionally. He personally improved the Army's strategic communication with the Congress, and developed the engagement strategy and legislative objectives for the Army's Senior Leadership.

From 2009 to 2012, COL Williams performed duties as the Chief of Programs. He expertly led the planning of the Army's congressional engagement strategies between senior Army Staff leaders and Members of Congress, leading directly to a defense authorization bill that enhanced the Army's ability to recruit, retain, and reset the world's premiere fighting force.

Through these varying assignments, COL Williams provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. On behalf of Congress, I thank COL Williams, his wife Helen, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and successful career.

IN HONOR OF MS. SYLVIA
RUCINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Sylvia Rucinski who is being honored by the Polonia Foundation on October 7, 2012.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Sylvia attended Miles Elementary School and graduated from Holy Name High School. She later attended Cuyahoga Community College and John Carroll University. Before beginning her 22 year career at the Alliance of Poles of America, Sylvia held a number of different positions. She previously held jobs with Harris Seybold, Grabler Manufacturing and several school and public libraries.

Sylvia has been a long-time and active member of the Polish-American community. She has been the director for the Alliance of Poles Federal Credit Union and Ohio Division of the Polish American Congress. She also served as the recording secretary of Circle 9 of the Alliance of Poles. Because of her unwavering service, Sylvia has been acknowledged by the Alliance of Poles as the recipient of the 2004 Meritorious Service Medal and Award and named the 2003 Grand Lady of Pulaski by the Polonia Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Sylvia Rucinski and congratulating her as she is recognized by the Polonia Foundation.

HONORING MR. OLIVER SIEBERT
OF CHESTERFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Oliver Siebert of Chesterfield, Missouri. The French government recently awarded Mr. Siebert the Legion of Honor for his part in the liberation of Strasbourg, France. The medal and the accompanying title of Knight of the Legion of Honor is the highest military award given by the French government.

Mr. Siebert, just twenty years old, was an acting second lieutenant leading the 324th infantry battalion and the 220th field artillery in November 1944. American forces, operating jointly with elements of the French Second Armored Division under the command of Captain Jean Penet, fought across the Vosges Mountains in the French Alps throughout October and November 1944. On 23 November 1944 elements of the French Army entered Strasbourg and liberated the city.

Mr. Siebert's service did not end with the liberation of Strasbourg. While conducting operations in support of the assault of Hangviller on 27 November 1944, Mr. Siebert and a small group of American soldiers were captured by German SS soldiers disguised as U.S. troops. Three days later, after overpowering two SS officers and commandeering their car, he was able to escape and return to his duties as an artillery forward observer.

On Christmas Day 1944 a German shell landed not far from his forward observation post and caused severe damage to his right leg. German strafing of the ambulance that evacuated him that night caused further damage that would require extensive surgery and lengthy convalescence to repair. After treatment at several American military hospitals, Mr. Siebert was honorably discharged on 18 August 1945.

Mr. Siebert returned to St. Louis, earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Washington University and in 1948 married Virginia Turner, his wife now for more than 63 years.

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to share this heroic story. This son of a truck driver for Anheuser-Busch, despite initially being rejected for military service because he was "clinically blind", did not give up his quest to do his part to defeat Nazi Germany. And now, almost seventy years later, I join the French government in honoring his sacrifice and service to the French people and these United States.

Mr. Siebert, thank you. And may God Bless you and your family.

CONGRATULATING MR. DEREK
CAVILLA FOR COMPLETING THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S
SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Derek Cavilla of Orlando, Florida, a teacher at Workforce Advantage Academy, upon his completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. During the National Gallery's six-day seminar, Mr. Cavilla intensively studied the foundation of twentieth-century art by examining the pioneering artists of French impressionism and post-impressionism.

In order for participants to be accepted in to the Gallery's Teacher Institute seminar, they must first complete a rigorous application process. Mr. Cavilla was one of only forty-five teachers from across the nation chosen to participate in this year's National Gallery of Art's Teacher Institute. From this seminar, teachers are able to return to their schools and students with new tools and ideas that will enhance education curriculum of all grade levels and subjects. The students of Central Florida are blessed to have such a dedicated educator as Mr. Cavilla.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Derek Cavilla on his acceptance to and successful completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. May his dedication to our nation's educational institutions and students inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

FIRST ANNUAL AMERICA'S
FAMILY DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, there will be an event taking place in Santa Monica, CA that I would like to highlight. This event will be the First Annual America's Family Day. The purpose of this event will be to celebrate families and to stress the importance of protecting and investing in our children.

On March 7, 2012, the Bi-Partisan Privacy Caucus, in which I serve as the co-Chairman, held a briefing to directly highlight H.R. 1895, the Do Not Track Kids Act of 2011. On our panel, we were joined by Nick Cannon, Spokesperson for Safe Communications, who shared the same passion of ensuring that our children are protected across all platforms. He graciously publicly endorsed H.R. 1895 and has decided to champion the cause by holding the very first America's Family Day.

I believe that Republicans and Democrats alike can agree that family is a sacred institution that deserves our time, energy, and devotion. I am blessed to have a loving wife, four wonderful children, two stepchildren, and five grandchildren. I want nothing more than to do my part to make sure they are secure, safe, and well protected. In this sentiment, I am

happy to offer my support for the First Annual America's Family Day.

HONORING STATE
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL ROAN

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of determination, service, and integrity—State Representative Paul Roan of Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Roan, a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, has served his district and state with distinction during the years of 2000 to 2012.

Paul's legislative work has been devoted to helping Oklahoma's brave veterans and emergency responders, protecting the state's natural resources and improving education for young people.

His personal career has been built on a foundation of public service. Roan proudly served our country as a member of the United States Air Force, he then spent time as an educator, a police officer and was elected Deputy Sheriff of Pontotoc County, followed by over 20 years of service as an Oklahoma Highway Patrol State Trooper.

Representative Roan has been a civic leader in the Oklahoma community for several years, serving as 1st Vice-President of the Oklahoma State Troopers Association, President of Tishomingo Lions Club, Master of Tishomingo Masonic Lodge #91, and a member of Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and American Legion Post 164.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to acknowledge not only his successes in the Oklahoma legislature, but also as a devoted father and family man.

Paul Roan is the husband of Betty Roan and father of Chris, Brad, and Angela Roan. The 20th House District of Oklahoma is a better place because of the service of Paul Roan.

IN HONOR OF SEA OTTER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 10th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 23–29, 2012 sponsored by Friends of the Sea Otter located in my congressional district. This week-long event highlights one of the most iconic species in California and the integral role they play in the near-shore marine ecosystem and draws public attention to sea otters and the conservation issues they face.

We all know that sea otter recovery has been met with challenges and sea otter populations remain threatened. Each day, research is uncovering additional causes of sea otter population declines. As a keystone species, sea otters hold the entire kelp forest ecosystem together, and as a bellwether species, they are an important indicator of the health of the marine environment. The decline of south-

ern sea otters off of the California coast not only impacts the species itself, but also affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystems. The demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked—leading to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds, which function as critical nursery grounds for many marine animals, and also help to sequester CO₂. Recent research has shown that spreading kelp can absorb as much as 12 times the CO₂ from the atmosphere than would an urchin dominated system.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be commended for their efforts in the recovery of the southern sea otter. Termination of the translocation program, allowing sea otters expansion into southern Californian waters, is a critical step along that path to recovery. I am concerned that language in the House version of the FY13 NDAA contains language that would impede the termination of this failed program and those flawed sections of the bill must be removed.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Friends of the Sea Otter and other non-profit environmental organizations that work on southern sea otter recovery in the Monterey Bay region. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals devote tremendous time and resources to protect and recover the southern California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its upcoming National Day.

During the last four and a half years, the Republic of China's President Ma has further strengthened the ties between Taiwan and the United States. One way Taiwan has accomplished this has been by reducing its trade surplus with the U.S. year after year. Additionally, Taiwan recently lifted its ban on U.S. beef imports. Taiwan's lifting will help our beef industry economically and Taiwan's example will encourage other countries to lift their bans against U.S. beef and beef products.

Taiwan is also known for being a champion of peace. In addition to reducing tensions across the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan has continued to assert itself as a proponent of peaceful solutions. For instance, in the most recent dispute over the Diaoyutai/Senkaku islands, Taiwan has urged all parties to exercise patience and to put aside their differences, instead of resorting to military threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Taiwan on its 101st National Day. I am confident that the friendship and close relationship that has been cultivated by the United States and Taiwan will continue for many years to come.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT EMILIO HERNANDEZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Senior Master Sergeant Emilio Hernandez, an exceptional individual who has most recently been awarded the 2012 Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force. This prestigious award is given to only 12 members of the Air Force each year for their superior leadership, job performance, community involvement, and personal achievements.

SMSgt Hernandez was born in Havana, Cuba but grew up in Miami, FL. He graduated from Hialeah High School in 1990 and began his military career in 1992, serving at both Sheppard AFB in Texas and K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan. He was deployed to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey later that year in support of Operation PROVIDE COMFORT where he garnered two achievement medals, and was selected as a holiday phone call recipient from then President Bill Clinton. His decorated service history includes deployments to Kuwait in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, and Baghdad in support of both Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM.

In 2008, SMSgt Hernandez was assigned to his current position in the 100th Civil Engineer Squadron as Superintendent Operations Flight at RAF Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. In 2009 he deployed to Ali Base Iraq, where he served as Electrical Superintendent of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and received the Meritorious Service Medal. Later, he was selected as the 100th Civil Engineer Squadron's 2009 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the year. In 2011 SMSgt Hernandez was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service at Kandahar Airfield as the Operations Flight Chief of the 777th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron.

In his current position, SMSgt Hernandez has led 52 people in 53 civil engineering projects at 163 forward operating bases in support of 85,000 warfighters. He orchestrated \$80,000 in repairs to nine Marine Corps aircraft hangers to safeguard \$300 million in assets in support of a vital ISR platform. He oversaw a project to upgrade an electrical grid on a dam which preserved water and power flow to 450,000 Afghans, and managed the construction of two tactical operations centers worth \$500,000, securing Afghanistan's key district of Panjwai.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Emilio Hernandez for his continued service to our nation, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Taiwan's National Day on October