

to the reason why we were homeless. She raised my sister and I as a single mother and had to work all the time while my sister baby sat me.

We lived in Colorado for the first five years of my life, but I was born in San Antonio, Texas. My mother and I, along with my older sister moved to San Antonio because it's where the rest of our family was. It wasn't even my mom's idea to go to Colorado in the first place so the first chance we got to come back, we took. Growing up in San Antonio was quite difficult. As soon as we arrived, my mother asked a family member for a place to stay. She needed time to find a job for herself and an elementary school for me. My sister was old enough by this time to get her own job and begin living her own life, so that's exactly what she did. Eventually, the family of the family member we were staying with began to grow and my mother knew it was time to give them their own space back. We felt somewhat intrusive, as we did for most of the others we stayed with. The people we stayed with usually already had their own family, but still had the heart to offer a whole room to my mother and I.

My mother was great with keeping me in school, but not so great at staying put in one place, or keeping a job. This sounds really negative, but the reasons will explain why she couldn't keep a job. My mother found out that she was a diabetic when I was in the second grade. The next school year, we found out that I was also diabetic. She fell ill quite a bit, and so did I. We were both new to this disease, so we didn't quite know how to control it like we do now. Most minimum wage jobs expect a doctors excuse if a day is missed. For my mother, that was difficult. She never learned how to drive, so we stuck to public transportation, but for a woman who is ill, public transportation is just not safe. I remember feeling so helpless knowing that my mother, the woman who'd kept me healthy and up to date with shots and other records was sick and I could do nothing. By the fifth grade, I'd been to seven elementary schools, and my mother had worked a handful of jobs. The last person we stayed with lived in the courts. They got evicted because we weren't on their lease. We got someone kicked out of the courts. After that event, my mother felt so low and so bad about what we'd done. After that, she decided that it would be best if we were on our own instead of hurting others.

We moved into the Dwyer Avenue Shelter and I feel that was the best decision my mother made. The shelter provided so much information about the services that were available to us. They even offered my mom a job as receptionist in the front office of the shelter. They helped us get in contact with Transportation Services who provided school busses for me to attend which ever school I was last attending. Unfortunately, I had just moved up to junior high school so I attended yet another school, but I still felt more stable than I had before. The Shelter case workers helped all of the families who lived in the shelter find an apartment complex in a really nice part of town at an extremely discounted price. After the lease was up, my mother had worked enough as a receptionist that we could now afford our own apartment.

After two and a half years of successfully staying on our feet, my mother fell ill. Her liver had become inflamed and she was hospital-

ized for a month. She lost her job and we lost our apartment. For a whole month I lived with friends; Friends who I was able to create bonds with because we were stable. After that month, we had to move back into the shelter. My mother was told that she wouldn't be able to work ever again. This news threw my mother into a depression because she knew that she could no longer support herself, much less her daughter. The shelter, once again, helped us move into an apartment complex that wanted only a fraction of our total income, and helped us with transportation. Luckily, my father had begun paying child support a few years earlier so we had an income. We lived there for two and a half years, until I graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, ranked number 7 of my class.

That summer, I left to attend Texas State University. Moving from school to school made me slower than the other students because of all the different teaching techniques I'd been exposed to; some teachers even thought I was dyslexic. However, I made it all the way. I plan to go so much further, too, because I'm tired of being homeless. "Education is power" is my motto. Look at me now: "Only after two semesters of college, I'm influencing the decisions of congressmen!"

A TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER GREGORY GAYLOR

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer Gregory Gaylor, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician with the United States Navy. Petty Officer Gaylor is being honored by the Navy at the USO annual gala this November as the 2012 USO Sailor of the Year. He is being recognized for the steadfast determination and unwavering courage he displayed in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers and furthering the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of Petty Officer Gaylor's service came when he expertly led a three man EOD team during combat operations in Afghanistan from December 2011 to June 2012, in which he was responsible for locating and dismantling Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), among other objectives. In April of 2012, Gaylor and his team were fired upon by four separate machine gun positions, but with little regard for his own safety he managed to clear a nearby compound of explosive hazards and help transport those wounded from the line of fire. Overall, he located and destroyed four IEDs, faced six direct fire engagements, and trained over 300 Afghan Commandos in Counter-IED tactics and basic demolition techniques, which aided in the autonomy of Afghan security forces.

The courageous and selfless actions of Petty Officer Gaylor are truly commendable and indicative of the skill, professionalism and fortitude of the men and women of the United States Navy. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Petty Officer Gaylor on achieving the USO Sailor of the Year honor and thank him for his remarkable service to this great nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. TRACY VALLIER

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Tracy Vallier.

Dr. Vallier's career as a Professor of Geology at Indiana State University, Whitman College, Lewis-Clark State College, and Iowa State University; as well as his experience with Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and the US Geological Survey are all worthy of note. He has doubtlessly passed his passion and hard-earned knowledge on to innumerable students and colleagues.

Dr. Vallier has spent the last 50 years working to explore, document and teach the geography and geology of the Hells Canyon. The canyon, which follows the route of the Snake River through Idaho and Oregon, is the deepest gorge in North America: at 7,993 feet deep, it dwarfs the Grand Canyon by nearly 2,000 feet. Hells Canyon is a breathtaking, nearly-inaccessible American treasure that has been over 300 million years in the making, during which numerous geological processes ranging from volcanic uprisings, to the slow carving of the Snake River to cataclysmic glacial floods have provided a landscape filled with some of the most complex and intertwined geology in North America.

Dr. Vallier has dedicated the last half-century to understanding this geologic masterpiece. His colleagues tell us that he has probably explored more geography of Hells Canyon than any person alive. In his 50 years working in the Canyon, Dr. Vallier has led to an understanding of not only the geologic history of the Canyon, but also of the regional tectonics of the Pacific Northwest. He has shared this knowledge of the Canyon's history, native sites, flora and fauna, and ecology to colleagues, students, and almost everyone he has met. Dr. Vallier is a born teacher and his love and knowledge of the Canyon is passed on to students and strangers alike.

John Wesley Powell, who is best known for his pioneering study of the Grand Canyon, said about his explorations: "We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture many things." Without Powell, indeed we would have been left for a long time with only conjecture as our guide to the Grand Canyon.

In the same way Mr. Speaker, without Dr. Tracy Vallier, we would remain in the dark about the wonders of Hells Canyon. As Dr. Vallier continues his work in the Canyon today, it is my privilege to rise in recognition of his many achievements and contributions to our nation.

COLORADO BIOBUSINESS ACCELERATOR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the grand

opening of the Biobusiness Accelerator, the newest addition to the Fitzsimons Life Science District and the Anschutz Medical Campus of Aurora.

The 184-acre Fitzsimons Life Science District is adjacent to the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado. This proximity encourages commercial bioscience companies and academia to collaborate and share amenities. The current business Incubator opened in 2000, and already its 50+ bioscience start-ups have created in excess of 600 jobs.

When these start-ups have demonstrated viability as a commercial entity and received funding to enhance their growth, they graduate to the Accelerator environment for continued growth. The work happening in these incubators and accelerators shows the innovation, risks and cooperation involved in building successful small, medium and large businesses.

The new Accelerator will be a valuable economic engine for Colorado's bioscience industry, and I'm excited to see the creativity and innovative products developed right here in Colorado.

These are the kinds of businesses we need to encourage and to grow here in our state and country.

I extend my deepest congratulations and best wishes to the Colorado BioBusiness Accelerator, the Colorado Biosciences Association and all the startups and businesses involved in the opening of this new center.

OVARIAN CANCER

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 773—the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act.

The incredible team at the National Cancer Institute has provided extraordinary research that has been vital to our ability to combat cancer in all its forms.

Still, research for the deadliest cancers—called recalcitrant cancers—remains only a small portion of the Institute's total funding.

Recalcitrant cancers are defined by those that average a less than fifty percent survival rate beyond five years.

It's these cancers, which hide in hard-to-detect places, that can be the most dangerous for victims and most painful for families.

I know this to be true, Mr. Speaker, because my dear friend from childhood, Mrs. Kathryn Elliot Williams, lost a grueling battle with ovarian cancer earlier this year at the young age of 36. Elliot wasn't just my friend. She was a loving wife, a nurturing mother, a daughter, a sister and a true servant of her Lord and her neighbor.

After Elliot passed away I came to this floor to memorialize her life. But I cannot think of a better way to honor her memory than for the Congress to do its part to ensure that more women faced with this terrible disease have hope for the future.

September, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, is the most appropriate time to remind women young and old of the risks and ensure that research for ovarian cancer and other recalcitrant cancers will remain a priority for this country.

HONORING THE DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Dakota Jazz Club for its contribution to the music industry and musical development of the great state of Minnesota.

The Dakota Jazz Club opened in 1985 at Bandana Square in St. Paul as a bar and restaurant for local jazz performers. Since then it has grown to a well-recognized institution featuring performances by a range of national artists. In 2003, the Club moved to its current home in Nicollet Mall in Downtown Minneapolis. Its stage has hosted a multitude of nationally famous jazz musicians, including: Ray Brown, McCoy Tyner, Toots Thielemans, Joey DeFrancesco, Ahmad Jamal, Chucho Valdés, Benny Green, Joe Williams, Bobby Hutcherson, Roy Haynes, Arturo Sandoval, Wallace Roney, Charles Lloyd, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Larry Coryell, Pat Martino, Jack McDuff, Jimmy McGriff, Sonny Fortune, Frank Morgan, Zakir Hussain, Kurt Elling, Joshua Redman, James Carter, Madeleine Peyroux, Regina Carter, Patricia Barber, Von Freeman, Billy Higgins and Charles Brown.

The Dakota Jazz Club also operates the Dakota Live Record Label, a label dedicated to capturing and distributing world class jazz from their legendary stage in Minnesota. Some of the noted artists that have recorded for the label are legendary jazz musicians Von Freeman, Nachito Herrera, and Barvara Morrison.

The Dakota Jazz Club's passion for jazz extends beyond hosting musical performances and contributing to the history of jazz at large. The Dakota Jazz Club has also taken it upon itself to ensure the future of jazz in Minnesota through their Dakota Foundation for Jazz Education. Started in 1997, the Foundation's purpose is: "Introducing young people to jazz and helping them understand—and care about—what they are hearing. We want to help young people use jazz for self-expression and communication, and to experience the sheer pleasure that comes from responding to its challenges." The Dakota Foundation for Jazz Education supports a variety of services including offering scholarships for a year of serious extra-curricular jazz study and performance in partnership with the MacPhail Center for Music, helping young musicians develop and hone their skills in jazz appreciation, promoting a wide variety of workshops, funding the Youth Stage at the Twin Cities Jazz Festival held each June in St. Paul, and recognizing outstanding educators in honor of Jane Matteson, the benefactor and cofounder of the Foundation.

I commend the Dakota Jazz Club for all it has done for the Twin Cities, and I thank them for their dedication and service to music and the community.

HONORING COL. ROBERT FORTNAM, USAF (RET.) OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Air Force Colonel Robert Fortnam of Pembroke, a New Hampshire hero whose service and sacrifice during World War II is to be commended and remembered. Mr. Fortnam is celebrating his 90th birthday this year, and in his 90 years, he has seen and experienced more than most Americans ever will in their lifetimes.

Mr. Fortnam served as a B-17 co-pilot in the 305th Bombardment Group during World War II. On October 8, 1943, his life changed dramatically after his plane was shot down by a German F-190 fighter over the German border. Mr. Fortnam landed the plane safely and protected the lives of the 10 crew members on board, but their luck would change when German guards picked them up and sent them off to a POW camp in Poland, where Mr. Fortnam spent the next 19 months of his life.

After the war, Mr. Fortnam returned to the Granite State, where he graduated from the University of New Hampshire, became a mechanical engineer, and continued to serve in the Reserves as a colonel until his retirement. Mr. Fortnam still likes to fly once a week in a Cessna Skyhawk and travel all over New England.

Mr. Speaker, stories like Mr. Fortnam's reaffirm my commitment to those who have served and continue to serve our nation. We all owe Mr. Fortnam and the brave men and women of our armed forces a debt of gratitude that we can never truly repay, but we will continue fighting for them as they have fought for us.

New Hampshire citizens have long answered the call to service to our nation, and Mr. Fortnam represents the best of our state. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best as he continues to share his incredible story of service and sacrifice with us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize October 10 as a very special day for the people of Taiwan. It is their National Day. I join them in celebrating their continued political freedom and democracy. Today the people of Taiwan determine their own destiny and government through free and fair elections. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou won re-election as the fifth freely elected president on January 14, 2012.

The United States and Taiwan value human rights, civil liberties, a free press and the rule of law. Our shared values have produced a strong and dependable friendship for the past century. Taiwan was one of the first countries to come to our aid after Hurricane Katrina ravaged my home state of Louisiana. They have