

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF EUGENE McAVOY CHAMPION

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 80th birthday of Mr. Eugene Champion.

Mr. Champion was born on February 20, 1932, in Crenshaw County, Alabama to Leon and Carol Champion. The son of a farmer and teacher, Eugene finished high school and served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He attended and graduated from the University of Alabama on the GI Bill.

Eugene was married to his high school sweetheart, Bobbie Royal, in 1951. They had five children, Cindy, Mac, Becky, Amy and Bob. In 1976, Bobbie passed away. In 1979, Eugene married Margaret Scott and added her three children, Duane, Emalyn, and Derek to the family.

Mr. Champion received his CPA and worked as an accountant for several businesses as well as the State of Alabama.

After retiring from the State, Mr. Champion opened his own accounting firm. Although now retired, he still helps out friends with their taxes each year.

Eugene and Margaret are very involved in the First Baptist Church of Prattville. He is also an active member of the Lion's Club. Eugene is a proud grandfather and great-grandfather, who enjoys spending time with his family.

On February 19, his friends and family will celebrate his birthday in Prattville, Alabama. Today I would like to wish Eugene Champion a very Happy 80th Birthday.

## HONORING THORA JERVEY

## HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Thora Jervy, a beloved matriarch of the Radford community in Southwest Virginia. Mrs. Jervy left us on January 31, 2012.

Born in 1929, Thora spent much of her childhood in southern California. She graduated from Whittier College in 1951 and married her husband, Ed, the same year. Thora and Ed moved to Radford, VA, in 1961, where she quickly became an active member of the community. Thora founded "The Lamplighters" and led the campaign for a new library in Radford. Thora was also responsible for founding the Radford Clothing Bank in 1982. It now serves hundreds of needy individuals each year.

She taught at Dublin Elementary School for 26 years, impacting countless students. Thora volunteered throughout the community, including helping to start Radford Elf Shelf, Books for Babies, the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread program, and a nationally recognized newspaper recycling effort. Thora was also an active member of the Radford Women's Club and Grove United Methodist Church. Despite

being confined to a wheelchair for many years, she never let her disability get in the way. Until the time of her death, Thora continued as a member of the Radford Clothing Bank board and wrote a column for the Radford News Journal.

Thora was an avid bridge player and loved to travel. Along with her husband Ed, Thora visited every continent, including Antarctica. Thora is survived by her husband of 60 years, Ed; three sons, David, Warren, and Tom; daughter-in-law, Jeanne Phillips Jervy; and three grandchildren, Katie, Brett, and Peyton.

Those who knew her well are heard to talk of her generosity, kindness, and determination, which have made the City of Radford a better place to live. I am honored to pay tribute to this great woman's many contributions. Her legacy and influence will be long remembered in the Radford community.

## HONORING WISLAWA SZYMBORSKA

## HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring the late Wislawa Szymborska, Nobel Prize winning Polish poet and essayist, who passed away on February 1, 2012. Wislawa Szymborska was described as "the Mozart of poetry . . . with the furor of Beethoven." She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996, propelling her to international fame.

Incredibly particular in what she deemed worthy of print, Ms. Szymborska published less than 400 poems over the span of six decades. First gaining notoriety in Poland, her poetry eventually became known worldwide. She was renowned for approaching serious subjects with humor and satire, as well as for deeply examining seemingly trivial everyday occurrences. A true artist, she was very much in tune with human nature, while seemingly transcendent above it all. She was also notoriously private, choosing to remain away from what she called the "fuss."

Wislawa Szymborska's poetry is so profoundly rooted in human reality and yet so far removed from it, that it will surely withstand the test of time for generations to come. Both she and her poetry will be truly missed.

## IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM H. WILLOUGHBY, JR.

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William H. Willoughby, Jr. who is being recognized by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County as the 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

Born a true "military brat," Mr. Willoughby grew up around the world in places such as California, Japan and Washington, DC. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School before graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He furthered his training at Infan-

try, Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces Qualifications Schools. Mr. Willoughby served his country valiantly during two tours in Vietnam during 1965-1966 and again in 1968. He was an A Team Leader with the 5th Special Forces Group on his first tour and a Battalion Operations Officer (S3) with the 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry 1st Infantry Division during the second, during which he was wounded in combat. Mr. Willoughby was awarded with the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation, Air Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge for his brave service to his country. Due to medical reasons, he retired from the Army in 1971.

While recovering from his injury, Mr. Willoughby earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Tulane University. He used his education to obtain work in the manufacturing industry. Working his way up in the field, Mr. Willoughby became the president of Pettibone Ohio Corporation. In 1984, with only five employees, he established Cleveland Track Material, Inc. (CTM). CTM quickly became a thriving company and by 2007 employed 260 people. It was named one of the "100 Best Places to Work in North East Ohio" for three consecutive years. It has received the Ohio Governor's Workforce Excellence Award, Blue Chip Enterprise Award and it was named the 1990 Ernest & Young Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year.

In addition to his military service and business success, Mr. Willoughby has been an outspoken supporter of the U.S. Military Academy and in 1979 was appointed the West Point Admissions Coordinator for Northeast Ohio. In 2010, he was named the coordinator for the entire state. Over the years William has assisted more than 650 young people from the State of Ohio to gain admission to the prestigious military academy.

Since 1997, he has served as the Master of Ceremonies for my 10th Congressional District's annual Service Academy Day and has provided invaluable assistance with the nomination process to my congressional staff. He has set the standard for a Service Academy representative, and is the recognized leader among West Point representatives. Everyone knows Bill! Always positive and professional, he leads by example, with a life history to illustrate the success of following the path of Duty, Honor and Country.

Mr. Willoughby has also brought four new Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs to Cleveland City Schools. Mr. Willoughby has been recognized as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus in 2005, received the U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2008.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. William Willoughby, Jr., Cuyahoga County's 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

## RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE TAILLON

## HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Tailon for her 32 years of service at General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts, and to congratulate her on her recent retirement.

Christine started as a temporary employee in 1979 but soon became a permanent member of the GE staff. While raising two sons, working full time, and completing a bachelor's degree at Salem State College and a master's degree in Management at Lesley College in Cambridge, Christine progressed in various roles throughout the Lynn Aircraft Engine unit and became one of the first women in the company to become a Six Sigma Black Belt—a team leader responsible for measuring, analyzing, improving and controlling key processes that influence customer satisfaction and productivity growth.

Christine completed her General Electric career at the end of 2011 as a Senior Tech Manager for Turbo Shaft & GE38 Marine & Commercial Programs. The GE38 engine is believed to be the most technologically advanced turbo shaft engine in its class, and it is my understanding that the United States Marine Corps has selected it to power the Sikorsky CH53K Super Stallion helicopter.

General Electric has been in Lynn since 1892, and members of Christine's family have proudly worked there for most of that time. Christine's grandfather, Martin G. Higgins, entered the apprentice program at Lynn General Electric in 1904 and worked there for 34 years. Her father, John J. Higgins, worked at GE for 33 years, from 1943 to 1975. Christine's husband, Michael Taillon, also worked for 41 years at Lynn GE. In total, that is 140 years of service to General Electric in Lynn.

I congratulate Christine on her remarkable career and wish her all the best in her retirement.

#### HONORING JIMI YAMAICHI

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative ZOE LOFGREN to honor Mr. Jimi Yamaichi. On November 3, 2011, Mr. Yamaichi was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, from the Government of Japan. Mr. Yamaichi is being recognized for his contributions to Japan-U.S. relations arising from decades of community involvement. On February 24, 2012, the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Hiroshi Inomata, will present Mr. Yamaichi with this distinguished award.

Mr. Yamaichi grew up on his family owned farm in San Jose, California during the Great Depression era. As a young student, Mr. Yamaichi dreamed of becoming a carpenter. However, racism within the carpenter's union and the outbreak of World War II postponed that dream. With the signing of Executive Order 9066, Mr. Yamaichi and his family were forcibly removed from their home to the Pomona Assembly Center, then to the internment camps at Heart Mountain in Wyoming and at Tule Lake in California. While at Tule Lake, he oversaw building projects as the camp construction manager. After the war ended, Mr. Yamaichi doggedly pursued union membership, which he was finally granted.

With his experience in the internment camps and as a carpenter, Mr. Yamaichi has turned his attention towards memorializing the experi-

ences of Japanese Americans. Over the years, he has served on a variety of boards and committees in San Jose's Japantown. Currently, he leads the effort to restore the Tule Lake Relocation Center in addition to leading biannual pilgrimages to the internment camp. Through the restoration and pilgrimages to Tule Lake, Mr. Yamaichi shares the harsh reality of life in internment. Driven by the desire to tell the story of Japanese Americans, Mr. Yamaichi became a charter member of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. As the curator of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, he has managed projects and played a key role in the construction of the new museum. One of the key exhibits is the replica of the camp barracks, complete with artifacts found at Tule Lake.

Mr. Yamaichi's lifelong work to preserve Japanese American history was recognized by the Government of Japan in the 2011 Conferment of Decoration. Mr. Yamaichi is receiving the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for his work in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Speaker, we commend Mr. Jimi Yamaichi for his years of dedication and commitment to Santa Clara County and the Japanese American community. His contributions ensure that Japanese Americans' experiences of persecution will never be forgotten.

#### URGING PASSAGE OF THE STOCK ACT

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The STOCK Act. This bill will make government more transparent and accountable to its citizens.

It is unacceptable for any Member of Congress, federal official or their staff to use non-public information obtained during their work as a public servant for their own financial gain.

The STOCK Act will give our constituents peace of mind that no one will gain from insider trading. This legislation greatly improves the Senate-passed version by extending these requirements to include the Executive Branch. All public servants must be held to the same standards.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

#### U.S. COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2012*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I commend President Obama's administration for the steps it is taking to bring the longest war in our nation's history to a close. Last week, Defense Secretary Panetta expressed the hope that "by mid- to the latter part of 2013 we'll be able to make a transition from a combat role to a training, advice and assist role." I urge the administration to fulfill this aspiration and bring our troops home to their families. They have sacrificed enough.

Afghanistan began as a war of necessity. After the horrific September 11th attacks, we sent troops to eliminate Al Qaeda, killing their leaders and destroying their training camps to prevent a future terrorist attack. Our troops carried out this mission with extraordinary courage and dedication. Osama Bin Laden was driven out of Afghanistan and he is now dead. Furthermore, our intelligence community affirms that Al Qaeda is virtually extinguished from Afghanistan, yet the war continues. End this war now and focus like a laser on terrorists wherever they may be.

Our troops in Afghanistan are no longer fighting terrorists who pose a threat to the United States. They are now fighting domestic Afghan factions and defending a corrupt and inept Afghan government. Our service-members are dying in another country's civil war. This has become a war of choice.

I recently met with Lt. Col. Danny Davis who described to me what that civil war looks like on the ground. He has served two combat deployments in Afghanistan, and has traveled throughout the country talking with US troops stationed all over. A recent evaluation of Col. Davis reads: "His maturity, tenacity and judgment can be counted on in even the hardest of situations, and his devotion to mission accomplishment is unmatched by his peers." This is how Col. Davis describes what he has observed:

What I saw bore no resemblance to rosy official statements by U.S. military leaders about conditions on the ground. Entering this deployment, I was sincerely hoping to learn that the claims were true: that conditions in Afghanistan were improving . . .

Instead, I witnessed the absence of success on virtually every level.

I saw the incredible difficulties any military force would have to pacify even a single area of any of those provinces; I heard many stories of how insurgents controlled virtually every piece of land beyond eyeshot of a U.S. or International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) base. I saw little to no evidence the local governments were able to provide for the basic needs of the people. Some of the Afghan civilians I talked with said the people didn't want to be connected to a predatory or incapable local government. From time to time, I observed Afghan Security forces collude with the insurgency. . .

Col. Davis's candid testimony reinforced my conviction that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, only the prospect of continued shedding of American blood in a war that is not ours to fight. Only through a negotiated political settlement amongst the Afghan factions, not through an open-ended U.S. military presence, could Afghanistan become a stable, developing country.

America faces new threats now. The more than a trillion dollars spent on two wars over the course of a decade undermines our financial stability and takes away from much needed funds for American jobs and investments at home. The Obama administration has shown courageous leadership in eliminating Osama Bin Laden and other top Al Qaeda leaders. They have also shown leadership in bringing the war in Iraq to an end and in planning to ensure that the U.S. military commitment in Afghanistan is not an open-ended one. As President Obama clearly stated in his speech on the drawdown plan last year, we need to focus on nation-building at home. I agree, and I strongly support ending U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan and bringing our troops