

Shalimar, Florida. The county provided a state of the art building designed to hold 500 students; however, the school did not have an official name, so the local newspaper held a countywide naming contest. After the votes were counted, Choctawhatchee High School was declared the winner. Choctawhatchee—derived from a Creek Indian word meaning “coming together”—was a fitting moniker for a school that would unite students from all across Okaloosa County.

Choctawhatchee High School opened its doors on September 22, 1962 in Shalimar, Florida; however, after four years, the school had already exceeded its capacity, and the school relocated to its present location in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. From day one, Choctawhatchee established itself as an institution of academic excellence committed to educating each and every student. Nearly 20,000 students have graduated from the school since its opening, with many of them going on to achieve success in fields ranging from our military and space exploration to professional athletics and business.

Thanks to the dedicated support of teachers, staff, alumni and the entire community, Choctawhatchee has continued to excel and reach new heights. Today, the school offers the only International Baccalaureate program in Okaloosa County, Florida, more than a dozen Advanced Placement classes, an aviation program offered in partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, dual enrollment college courses with Northwest Florida State College, computer and electrical engineering programs in conjunction with the University of West Florida, as well as a successful Air Force Junior ROTC program.

Choctawhatchee also has a long and successful athletics program. In fact, the school's tradition of having a student ride a horse onto the field prior to football games served as the inspiration for a similar tradition at Florida State University. Whether it is on the playing field or in the classroom, Choctawhatchee High School's commitment to excellence has served as an inspiration and point of pride for the entire Northwest Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Choctawhatchee High School. The Mayor and City Council of Fort Walton Beach have declared Friday, September 21, 2012, as Choctawhatchee High School Day. My wife Vicki and I join the entire Northwest Florida community in congratulating Choctawhatchee High School on their 60th anniversary and wishing them continued success.

HONORING MISSION EARLY
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mission Early College High School. Mission Early College was recently honored with the 2012 National Blue Ribbon award from the United States Department of Education for excellence in education.

The National Blue Ribbon School award honors both public and private elementary,

middle and high schools where students achieve at high levels and also schools where the achievement gap is narrowing. Since 1982, more than 6,700 of America's schools have received this coveted award.

I want to personally congratulate the teachers, administrators, and staff of Mission Early College High School for their commitment and dedication to our young students in El Paso. This year only 269 schools nationwide received the award, and a ceremony in Washington, D.C. will honor their achievement. The Blue Ribbon validates the efforts of these schools in creating a positive and effective learning environment. These schools and their communities have achieved a degree of excellence of which they can justifiably be proud.

Mission Early College is a fine example of what can be accomplished when parents, teachers and administrators collaborate to prepare our students for a prosperous future. By emphasizing the importance of leadership, hard work, and dedication, Mission Early College is enabling a new generation of community leaders. In fact, upon completion of their high school career at Mission Early College High School, students not only graduate with a high school diploma, but can also earn up to 60 hours of college credit and an associate's degree. This opportunity for excellence and achievement is giving many students an early and critical exposure to college academics.

In times of economic uncertainty, we cannot lose sight of the paramount importance of our children's education, and I am honored to represent Mission Early College High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2012, I unfortunately missed four votes, which included rollcall Nos. 581, 582, 583 and 584.

If I had been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 581.

If I had been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 582.

If I had been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 583.

If I had been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 584.

RECOGNIZING THE RENTON
HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Renton Housing Authority and congratulate them on the successes of the Sunset Area Community Revitalization Program. The commitment of all who work with the Renton Housing Authority has been instrumental in providing quality, affordable, and safe housing options for low-income individuals and families.

The Renton Housing Authority was established in 1941 to provide middle and low-in-

come workers affordable housing near the Boeing B-29 and PACAR Sherman Tank manufacturing lines. In 1959, the Renton Housing Authority constructed Sunset Terrace.

The Sunset Area Community Revitalization Program is focused on the redevelopment of the Sunset Terrace public housing project. This effort is an important community enhancement that will help all residents of Renton, Washington have a safe place to call home.

The Sunset Area Community Revitalization Program will also receive a 2012 VISION 2040 Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council. This award is given to projects that are finding solutions to the Puget Sound region's expected growth, specifically projects that promote the well-being of our communities and economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the valuable contributions of the Renton Housing Authority. The organization's dedication to helping people in our communities is laudable.

CONCERNS FOR ECUADOR

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation, democratic shortcomings, and increased drug trafficking in Ecuador.

Corruption, inefficiency, and political influence have plagued the Ecuadorian judiciary for many years. In a referendum held in May 2011, President Rafael Correa obtained a mandate for constitutional reforms that could significantly increase government powers to constrain media and influence the appointment and dismissal of judges. President Correa continues to weaken the democratic electoral process by appointing government supporters as authorities in all branches of government.

Ecuador's Criminal Code has provisions that restrict freedom of expression and government officials use these laws against the ruling party's critics. The “desacato” (lack of respect) clause enables the Ecuadorian government to imprison and prosecute anyone who offends the president or a government official.

President Correa has taken action to strengthen trade relations with Iran, a U.S.-designated State Sponsor of Terrorism. Iran has reduced tariffs for seven Ecuadorian products as well as signed an agreement to supply oil products during 2012 and 2013 to Ecuador. President Correa has expressed his desire to continue trading with Iran and bilateral visits between Correa and Iranian dictator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad occur frequently.

With its location between the two largest cocaine producing countries in the world, Peru and Colombia, Ecuador is a major transit country for narcotics. Ecuador's porous borders and increased participation in the drug trade makes the country very vulnerable to organized crime. Counternarcotics cooperation with the United States is and should remain a major focus of U.S. assistance to Ecuador.

Recently I met with Sociedad Ecuatoriana del Exterior (SEDE), an organization dedicated to fostering freedom and democracy in Ecuador and promoting the wellbeing of Ecuadorian-American citizens. I am asking for

unanimous consent to submit for the RECORD the attached letter. This letter provides a detailed outline of the Ecuadorian government's failure to protect the fundamental human rights of its people.

It is critical that we pay close attention to the actions of the Ecuadorian government as they silence political opposition, rig elections, and strengthen ties with Iran.

SOCIEDAD ECUATORIANA DEL EXTERIOR,
Doral, FL, August 13, 2012.

Hon. DAVID RIVERA,
U.S. Congressman.

DEAR MR. RIVERA: Sociedad Ecuatoriarva del Exterior (SEDE), in an effort to be faithful to our freedom and democracy principles, considered a must to let you know that there have been very serious fundamental human rights violations in Ecuador, which are listed right below.

1. Freedom of expression have been severely limited promoting absurd and unsubstantiated judgments against prestigious national newspapers such as—"El Universol" magazines private property confiscations, such as "Vanguard" Magazine, and the closure of radio and television stations opposed to the Ecuadorian Government, such as the closing of Radio Morena, a community managed. government opposed radio station.

The electoral process to choose, not only a new president but also Assembly Members, and new Ecuadorian authorities has been null and void from its very beginning when the government simulating knowledge contests, just to end up appointing government supporter as authorities in all branches of government That, in addition to disqualifying the legally registered political parties due to mistakes made by the National Electoral Council in a clear attempt to have no political opponents in the coming presidential election.

3. The Ecuadorian government has declared Delaware, Nevada, Wyoming and Florida, as "tax havens", therefore seeking to be able force Ecuadorian-Americans in the U.S. to pay taxes in Ecuador for corporations registered in these states and in Ecuador

4. As Ecuadorian-Americans committed to freedom and democracy, we are very concerned about the Ecuadorian government's announcement on "strengthening" of trade relations with Iran, including the willingness to open a trade office in that country and start "commercial missions" when Iran is considered a country that promotes terrorism and money laundering.

5. All money remittances from Ecuadorians living abroad, sent to Ecuador will be channeled through the Central Bank of Ecuador and then "after making a few bucks" to the final destination, thus, restricting the speed of the process in order, or so they say, to record them and tax these transactions.

All points outlined above, highly affect the already low life quality and business of Ecuadorians living in Ecuador, and also the lives of those Ecuadorian-Americans and residents who live in this great country, who are a part of it and who have sworn to love, respect and defend it, with our lives if it is necessary, as we already have done in the past.

Now, and very respectfully, we would like to ask you to share this document with your colleagues, and for its formal presentation to the Congress of the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,

CARLOS R. LANGE,
SEDE President.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL
DUNNINGTON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my closest friends and trusted advisors, the late Paul Dunnington of Monticello, Kentucky.

Paul and I quickly became friends when my family moved to Monticello. We shared a lot of great memories together and remained close friends until his battle with cancer came to an untimely end on August 20, 2012.

Paul was a savvy entrepreneur and offered great wisdom and advice to several businesses, boards, and non-profit organizations, including the Monticello-Wayne County Industrial Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce, and my own public service in Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District. In 1986, I tapped Paul to be one of the founding directors of the Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED), where he dedicated 26 years to helping recruit new industry and more than 10,000 new jobs to our rural region.

In addition to his astute business skills, Paul had a heart of gold and an unmatched spirit of philanthropy. He dedicated his life to civic groups and organizations interested in helping the less fortunate, including the Kiwanis Club, Habitat for Humanity, the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, and the Monticello Camp of Gideons International through which he dedicated 15 years to jail ministry, as well as 12 foreign mission trips. He believed everyone deserved a second chance and made it his mission to help the struggling succeed. He was a founding member of the HELP Pregnancy Center in Monticello and recently established the Oxford House in partnership with his church, the Monticello First Baptist Church, to help men overcome drug addiction, giving them a place to live and helping them find work. One of his legacy projects and his most recent venture was the renovation of the Wayne County Museum, for which he diligently raised funds and dedicated a room in my honor.

Southern Kentucky lost a true humanitarian in Paul Dunnington. May his legacy forever live on through the programs he established to improve the lives of our neighbors and loved ones. He made a difference in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a dear friend and a champion for the less fortunate, the late Paul Dunnington. My wife, Cynthia and I extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to his wife Kathryn and the entire Dunnington family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 585 on the evening of September 19, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall vote No. 585—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R.

5044, the Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act: "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SPC
JOSHUA N. NELSON

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I rise today to honor the life of Specialist Joshua N. Nelson of the United States Army. Specialist Nelson was a native of Greenville, North Carolina, which is in my Congressional District. Specialist Nelson was one of four soldiers that tragically lost their lives in Zabul Province, Afghanistan on September 16, 2012.

Specialist Nelson graduated from North Pitt High School in 2008 and later enlisted in the Army where he became a signals intelligence analyst. Specialist Joshua Nelson was a source of great pride in his hometown of Greenville. He exemplified to the community what was possible with determination, and epitomized what it meant to serve with honor and distinction.

These facts were demonstrated in the various awards and decorations Specialist Nelson received during his career in the Army. Specialist Nelson received the National Defense Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. In only 22 short years, Specialist Nelson accomplished more than most people do in a full lifetime.

Unfortunately, earlier this month, Specialist Nelson perished while serving his country. He is survived by his wife, Quamisha Nelson; his mother, Kathy Glover; his father, Brian Nelson; and his stepmother, Valorie Nelson. I offer my sincere appreciation to his loved ones for his service in the United States Army and his selfless efforts in the defense of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering heartfelt condolences to Specialist Joshua Nelson's family. I pray that his life serves as a guiding force for the Greenville community and others around the country. We are forever indebted to his family for the ultimate sacrifice he paid on our behalf.

H.R. 5987

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted against H.R. 5987, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act. I recognize that the Manhattan Project played an important role in the United States' energy history and has had a significant impact in the Pacific Northwest, and it makes sense for us to draw attention to places like Hanford, Washington. However, adding these responsibilities to the National Park Service's portfolio when the agency is already underfunded and overworked does not make sense.

It is frustrating to me that while we are told by the current House majority that there is not