

United States, and space exploration programs throughout the world.

The couple moved to Houston, TX, in 1998 and started a family. As Ilan trained for his space missions, Rona continued on a new adventure of her own: holistic medicine. The new surroundings gave Rona the opportunity to expand her knowledge of holistic medicine by studying new techniques, including the treatment of astronauts.

On February 1, 2003, tragedy struck when the space shuttle Columbia, carrying Ilan and 5 others, disintegrated upon re-entry. Columbia was commanded by Rick Husband, an alumnus of my alma mater, California State University, Fresno. Facing not only a personal, but also a national loss, Rona found herself in the midst of international events and memorials, representing not only herself, but the entire nation of Israel.

While still coping with the passing of her husband, Rona also lost her brother in a battle against leukemia. Shortly thereafter, Rona and her four beautiful children, Asaf, Tal, Yiftach and Noa, returned to Israel, where she found solace in her holistic healing practice and earned an MA in Holistic Health at Lesley College.

In 2009, Rona's eldest son Asaf, a gifted pilot, was tragically killed in an F-16 training accident. Once again, Rona was forced to deal with the death of a loved one, yet found the strength to continue her passion for helping others.

Today, Rona continues to inspire people across the world with her public speaking on loss and healing. She works with several organizations and foundations including her own Ramon Foundation, an organization that promotes educational and communal values through space and scientific studies.

On October 20, 2012, a film honoring Ilan titled "An Article of Hope," will be shown in Palo Alto, CA, with Rona speaking in memoriam of her husband. This special event will be held in remembrance of the Columbia disaster nearly 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the strength and compassion of Rona Ramon, a woman who has turned tragedy into an opportunity to promote good throughout the world, and who continues to be an inspiration to myself and others.

HONORING MRS. OMEILA  
MCKINNEY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable librarian, Omeila McKinney. Omeila was born and reared on a plantation in Bourbon, Mississippi, to John Fred and Nancy Johnson. In January 1964 she and her family of five brothers and five sisters relocated to Mound Bayou, Mississippi where she resides today. She is a member of St. Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Her maternal grandparents Lem and Elsie Frye passed on a legacy of holiness that left the family without excuse when it comes to salvation. Her paternal grandparents Marshall, Sr. and Sarah were also devout people of God.

Omeila always liked to read even as a small child. Her dad taught her to read when she was three years old. He was a great supporter of his children obtaining an education even though he did not get his high school diploma until 1966. Her love for books led her to reading centers in elementary school where she read every book she could get her hands on and later to the library where she read so many books that the librarian gave her special permission to check out as many books as she liked. Upon graduating from Coahoma Junior College, in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1969 with an Associates of Arts Degree in Social Studies, she furthered her education at Delta State College where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. She taught in Social Studies in the Quitman County School District while pursuing a master's degree at Delta State University in library science.

After receiving a master of library science degree in 1974 from Delta State University, Omeila McKinney began her career as a high school library media specialist at John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She was a professional library media specialist who has a broad understanding of the educational system and works closely with teachers, administrators and students in selecting and evaluating materials to support the instructional program.

Omeila was dedicated to the children of John F. Kennedy High and made great strides toward educating them in the use of media such as reading, research, audiovisual production and many other useful instruments that would assist the students to succeed. Students were also given comprehensive test to measure their skills which they did excel.

In the early 1990s, she wrote a mini grant which she used to purchase the first multimedia computer in the Mound Bayou School District. Upon receiving the computer she was aware she did not know what to do with it. However, she was determined to learn and solicited two students who were avid computer users to give her lessons. She took that knowledge and later became one of the best computer users in the district using her knowledge to help her co-workers as well as many students.

After serving the Mound Bayou Public Schools for 26 years, she applied and Was accepted to the North Bolivar School District in Shelby, Mississippi as their high school library media specialist. She continued the job she loved so much for another three years until her retirement in 2004. A year after retirement she took a position as branch librarian in Shelby, Mississippi at the public library. There she was helpful in bringing great improvements to the public library. After leaving the Shelby public library, Omeila returned to Broad Street High School in 2006 to work as a part time library media specialist. Her plan and goal was to help children improve their reading and research skills by utilizing the great resources of the library through fun and interactive activities.

Omeila uses her skills as a library media specialist in her role as the reading fair coordinator for the North Bolivar School District. Students she has worked with have won district, regional, and state honors for the past four years. She enjoys her job, students and her co-workers.

Omeila's profession as a librarian has had a positive impact on her husband of 37 years,

Claude McKinney. During Mr. McKinney's tenure as an educator he utilized research and other knowledge to enhance his students learning abilities. The couple has four children, Desmond, Sheri, Preamiller and Tanjanikia McKinney.

NORTHEAST COUNSELING  
SERVICES

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Counseling Services, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary of service to our community.

Northeast Counseling Services, founded on July 1, 1972, is a professional organization dedicated to improving quality of life by providing comprehensive and effective behavioral health services through a caring and responsive partnership with individuals, families, and the community. They serve our community as one of the largest providers of behavioral health services in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Northeast Counseling Services offers a wide range of psychiatric services for children, adolescents, and adults including crisis intervention, intake and evaluation, inpatient and outpatient services, and intensive case management, among others. Northeast Counseling also offers emergency service available twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. They have office locations in Nanticoke, Hazleton, and Lehighton.

Mr. Speaker, for the past forty years, Northeast Counseling Services has proudly served the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend the group on its 40th anniversary and wish it continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE WATSONVILLE  
WETLANDS WATCH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 20th Anniversary of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, which is a remarkable community organization in my district. Dedicated to the protection, restoration, and appreciation of the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley, this group engages members of the Watsonville community and students of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, drawing public attention to the rich uplands and dependent area wildlife.

Fed by the waters of the Pajaro Valley watershed, and linked together by nine species of fish and 250 species of birds, including many that are threatened or endangered, the six Sloughs of the Watsonville slough system form one of the largest remaining freshwater marshlands in the state's coastal zone. These Sloughs provide nursing grounds for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants filter out impurities in the water, sequester carbon dioxide, and provide a buffer from land to sea—protecting water quality from impacts of soil erosion and

protecting the land from the impacts of flooding. They also provide recreational opportunities.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, hundreds of docents and volunteers are involved in green house native plant production and actively involved restoration work, attending regular monthly "Restoration Day" events. Through these efforts, and in collaboration with the city of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville Wetlands Watch has supported a deep connection between the community of the Pajaro Valley and a healthy environment and watershed. Over the past 20 years, the Watsonville Wetlands Watch has grown from a small all-volunteer group doing slough cleanups, into the dynamic organization which we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF SECOND LIEUTENANT  
JAMES DES JARDIN

**HON. REID J. RIBBLE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who has finally come home. Our experience is different than it would have been had Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin been found in 1944. James' parents had already buried one son, and now would have been burying another. Grief and sadness was the companion for this family on that December day in 1944.

Just three days after Christmas, the family was told of James missing in action with a letter. And I think you should know that similar letters were sent to over 73,000 families during the war saying that their loved one was missing. Our nation paid a heavy price to bring freedom to the world.

I cannot imagine the horror of hearing that news. More than that, I cannot fathom the uncertainty of a family not knowing. James' brother Earl, a bomber pilot, had already been killed in service to our country, in France just two months before, and now another son was missing.

Was James a POW? Was he hiding in Germany and working his way home? Did he perish that day? Or later? These are the questions that no parent, no brother or sister or son or daughter ever wants to ask. But these questions had to be asked. They provided hope. They provided encouragement. . . . but they also provide doubt and despair.

The questions certainly lingered. The sacrifice of the family, quietly held in their hearts and thoughts, and the yearning to know. December 28, 1944, and the years that followed, certainly brought heartache, that unless you have experienced it personally must have been difficult to understand.

So finally today brings closure. We get to lay to rest Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin—An American hero. Today we get thank a family for their sacrifice. Today we get to, and I know this is a bit odd to say and maybe a bit odd for you to hear, but today we

get to celebrate a hero and a hero's family. We as a community join with this family to share not just in grief but in joy of knowing our hero is finally home.

It's certainly different today than it would have been for the Des Jardin family in 1944. Today instead our mourning a fallen hero we celebrate his homecoming.

Today the family's questions have been answered and so have ours. Today an American hero is welcomed home and laid to rest. May God Bless the family and in His time provide the same closure for our Nation's other MIA families.

Thank you to the Des Jardin family for your sacrifice and thank you for including me today.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of victims of domestic violence and in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For far too long, domestic violence victims have been ignored, afraid to speak up, and scared of being stigmatized. Battered immigrant women have been particularly vulnerable to domestic violence due to their temporary immigration status or lack of status. These women often suffer in silence because they fear threats of deportation, fear being separated from their children, and are afraid to come out of the shadows.

We have made significant progress in both reducing incidents of domestic violence and in offering support to victims. Eighteen years ago, Vice President BIDEN led the bipartisan effort to enact the Violence Against Women Act. As we all know, VAWA has strengthened communities and provided critical, life-saving support to victims of domestic violence, including battered immigrant women.

Obamacare expands access to critical domestic violence services. Under Obamacare, health insurers must provide women with access to domestic violence screening and counseling services without any cost-sharing and they cannot charge higher premiums to victims of domestic violence. This eliminates cost as a barrier to accessing these important services.

Nonprofit organizations are also doing inspiring work to aid victims of domestic violence. One such organization is Second Chance Employment Services. I want to recognize the extraordinary work done by this organization, and its founder Dr. Ludy Green. SCES offers survivors of domestic violence counseling and individualized job training services. SCES provides these women with both emotional support and the resources needed for financial security.

Despite all of these efforts, we still have a long way to go. Every day, three women in the United States die as a result of domestic violence. We must do everything we can to combat these unconscionable acts and support victims of this horrible crime. As the President noted in his Proclamation in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month of 2012, "Let us renew our efforts to support victims of

domestic violence in their time of greatest need, and to realize an America where no one lives in fear because they feel unsafe in their own home."

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we all must recommit to continuing to fight for all survivors of domestic violence. We must all work together to reauthorize VAWA before the end of this Congress and ensure that we expand rather than erode protections for all victims of domestic violence. I urge my Republican colleagues to pass the bipartisan Senate bill, which passed the Senate on April 26 by a more than 2-1 vote, so that we can expand rather than roll back protections for victims of domestic violence.

HONORING KINARD & MYLES TRUE  
GOSPEL PRODUCTIONS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 19, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable team, Mr. Johnny Kinard and the Reverend Marvin Myles, together they are Kinard & Myles True Gospel Productions, Inc. They have been in business for over twenty years in a promotional partnership showcasing some of this nation's finest gospel acts and artists alike.

Kinard and Myles believed there was no need for two promoters in a region as small as theirs and that they could expand their horizons if they joined in partnership. The competition was tough in the region and that is what drove them into their partnership. Kinard was inspired by Early Wright, so he started recruiting local artists to perform in February, in observance of "Black History Month," and this tradition has lasted thirty years. Every year now, this annual event it is headlined by some of the biggest names in the field but it is the local groups that are the center of attraction. Kinard gives much credit to the success of this event to the community of churches. Beyond marketing through the church's network it is the nurturing of talent within these congregations, whether they are soloist, groups or choirs making gospel music entertainment in demand.

Johnny Kinard is also a radio personality; he is simulcast on KJIW-94.5, WJIW-104.7, and KCAT-1340, every Thursday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. and on the internet at [www.lordrgdio.com](http://www.lordrgdio.com), where he reaches over a million listeners. The Mississippi Broadcasting Network named him the number one Gospel Music Promoter. Johnny Kinard is the recipient of the 2007 Mississippi Gospel Radio Announcer of the Year Award.

Over the years, Kinard & Myles True Gospel Production, Inc. was very good at booking local acts, working with other events and hosting concerts but on December 30, 2006, they had their greatest challenge, the Pre-New Year's Eve "Gospel Jamboree" at the 4000-seating accommodation Pinnacle Gymnasium on the campus of Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. The biggest names in the field of traditional quartet gospel music and Grammy Award winners were present. These were such groups as The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Lee Williams & Spiritual QCs, the Five Blind Boys of Mississippi and