

teachers, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Defense Language Institute, the Joint Foreign Area Officers program at the Naval Post Graduate School, and the National Virtual Translation Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan would agree with me that to compete in today's global economy, students need an international education paired with studying foreign languages. The State Department and the Department of Education should be commended for developing and supporting International Education Week.

HONORING STEVE STANFIELD-SWITZER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect from our District team. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Steve Stanfield-Switzer played a valuable role as a volunteer in my District office. I could always count on Steve to make sure visitors to our District office knew they were respected and recognized. Constituents were often comforted by Steve's calm confidence when they visited or called in need of critical assistance. Steve showed a particular interest in assisting our veterans and became a valuable resource to our staff in diagnosing their problems and helping to point them in the right direction.

Steve should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Steve Stanfield-Switzer for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WORK OF CHARLES "CHUCK" MOSHER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of Charles "Chuck"

Mosher, M.D., M.P.H. as the County Health Officer for Mariposa County. Serving in this position since 1988, Dr. Mosher has worked vigorously to make positive changes in the community.

Dr. Mosher is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He received his Medical Degree from the New York Medical College and continued his education at the University of Washington. While there, he earned his Master's in Public Health.

Chuck has dedicated his career to improving the health of those around him. While he was a physician, he volunteered for the Peace Corps in both Paraguay and Washington, D.C. He served as the Director of Emergency Medicine for the State of Georgia; and here in the Central Valley, he continued his career as the Emergency Medical Services Medical Director and Health Officer for Merced County. In addition, Chuck has passionately met the needs of his community through his general private practice in Mariposa County. He also served as Chief of Staff for the John C. Fremont Hospital.

On November 7, 1988, Dr. Mosher was appointed Mariposa County Health Officer. In this position, he dedicated his time to managing the day-to-day operations and budget of the Health Department, serving the public health needs of the residents and tourists in Mariposa County. This dedication to fulfill the public health needs of so many people makes Dr. Mosher an invaluable asset to the community.

As Public Health Officer, Dr. Mosher's duties not only covered infectious and communicable diseases, including measles and whooping cough outbreaks, Hantavirus, and H1N1 influenza; but everything from hazardous materials, air quality, aging septic systems, toxic chemicals, underground storage tanks, endemic rabies, several wildfires, sewage spills into the Merced River, floods, and anthrax exposure. He even increased public awareness by writing a regular column in the local newspaper and speaking to local service clubs and schools.

During Chuck's long, distinguished career, he has accomplished ambitious changes in the emergency medical services, which include contracting with professional ambulance companies, and coordinating and conducting emergency drills along with other public agencies. He is a member of the Mariposa Emergency Medical Care Committee and the Quality Improvement Subcommittee. Chuck has overseen and maintained involvement and communications with numerous regional health and safety related committees and agencies.

Working within a community facing many unique challenges, Dr. Mosher directed the enforcement of state and county health and sanitation laws and regulations and oversaw environmental health. He worked to educate and protect rural areas with the state's implementation of septic tank regulations and effectively transitioned the environmental and nursing staff from the state to the county with the reorganization of the department.

Dr. Mosher's sense of citizenship and volunteerism was recognized for his role in maintaining public safety during the post 9/11 events of 2001. He organized clinic services, dental health programs, community health resources, emergency medical services, and public health education—including the Child

Health and Disability Prevention Program. He wrote grants and contributed to the Smart Start Visiting Nurse program and Tobacco Cessation program. His dedicated work to these programs, as well as others, has improved the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Mosher for his outstanding commitment to serve the health needs of those in his community. In his retirement, he plans to continue with his passion of writing and possibly travel to serve in other less developed countries. Dr. Mosher is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WALTER HILGART

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Hilgart both for his service to our nation and for his continued service to the community.

Growing up during the Great Depression in Wisconsin, Mr. Hilgart began his service career in the U.S. Army. By the end of World War II, he had flown 22 combat missions with the Army Air Forces. He then left the service but quickly enlisted again—this time with the U.S. Air Force. By the end of his service with the Air Force, he had risen to the top enlisted grade of chief master sergeant.

Mr. Hilgart's service did not end there. As a retiree, he began substitute teaching in Pasco County, Florida. He is now a familiar face on Gulf High School's campus, even celebrating his 90th birthday in conjunction with the school's 90th birthday. During his time in the classroom, he encourages students to make the most of their education. Many students are so captivated by his life experiences that they work to quickly complete their assignments so there is time to hear his stories.

Mr. Hilgart's dedication to country and community are truly inspiring. Throughout his life, he has selflessly demonstrated qualities of putting others before himself. His legacy will certainly live on through the many students he has inspired for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 604. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 604.

HONORING THE JACKSON ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable newspaper, the Jackson Advocate. Established in

1938 by Mr. Percy Greene, the Jackson Advocate is a weekly newspaper covering issues affecting the African-American community.

Founder, Mr. Greene was a veteran of World War I and a Civil Rights leader in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Greene was determined to make a contribution to the struggle of African-American people in the South during a time when they were severely oppressed by legal segregation and Jim Crow.

In 1940 Mr. Greene and thirty other publishers formed a consortium of African American newspapers to bring relevant information to black readers in the United States of America. That consortium led to the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which promoted coverage of injustices against African Americans as well as their accomplishments. In 1978, Mr. Charles Tisdale became the owner and publisher of the Jackson Advocate and remained the owner and publisher until he passed in 2007.

The paper has received numerous awards and citations in its 68 years of service in reporting news and events relevant to the African-American community, including the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Award for Excellence, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year. In 1988 the magazine Newsday referred to the Advocate as a "national treasure."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Advocate for their dedication to serving and educating those in Mississippi and around the country.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST A. SAMPSON III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest A. Sampson III, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Ernest Sampson is the youngest of three children born to Ernest Jr. and Fay Sampson. As a young child, Mr. Sampson would often spend time with his maternal grandparents, James and Winona Willie of Brooklyn, NY. While there he learned to emulate the caring nature of his grandmother and the respect his grandfather earned from the surrounding community as the head of James H. Willie Funeral Home, Inc. As a result, an honest interest in service for young Mr. Sampson was born.

Receiving his early education in the New York Public School system, Mr. Sampson graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in 1982 and went on to obtain his Bachelor's of Science degree in Funeral Service Administration from St. John's University in 1986. In 1986, after taking several exams and serving in a one year apprenticeship with the James H. Willie Funeral Home, Mr. Sampson achieved his lifelong goal of becoming a licensed funeral director. Many of life's challenges would come the young man's way, yet he pursued his dreams and aspirations and established Sampson Funeral Service in 1993. Since that time, Mr. Sampson has expanded his ministry of comfort throughout the Brook-

lyn, Bronx, and Queens communities. Mr. Sampson has conducted numerous educational seminars on the topics of funerals, consolation, and city, state, and federal burial assistance programs. These seminars have been piloted on Career Days at schools, community events, and at youth organizations.

Mr. Sampson currently serves on the ministerial and teaching staffs of the First Baptist Full Gospel Church of Brownsville, NY. He has received awards from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz as well as the New York Men of Distinction award, and also served as a sponsor for Operation Get Ahead in 2003, Annual Youth Explosion in 2003, and the Coney Island Youth Alive sponsor in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sampson for his extraordinary accomplishments as a funeral director in New York City. Appreciation, comfort, and professionalism are paramount in his life and serve as guiding posts for the families and communities he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Sampson.

TRIBUTE TO TOM JONES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Tom Jones served on my District staff during my first term in Congress. Tom was instrumental in helping to establish our office's outreach program with the local business community. Tom also performed extensive research into grant opportunities for the District and was a valuable resource to local governments and non-profits in realizing assistance available to them from the Federal government. Tom established our office as a vital resource to the region in helping to grow the local and state economies.

Tom should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Tom and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Tom Jones for his

hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING GILDA GONZALES UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Ms. Gilda Gonzales and the tremendous accomplishments of the Spanish Speaking Unity Council under her leadership. For nearly five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich families' quality of life by helping them build wealth and assets through comprehensive programs of sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development. We honor the Unity Council along with its fearless leader, Mrs. Gilda Gonzales, who is stepping down from her duties as Chief Executive Officer.

This evening, supporters and friends gather in the Fruitvale District of Oakland to bid farewell to Ms. Gonzales and to congratulate the Unity Council for all of its many accomplishments. In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in the Fruitvale district. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. And, in the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

In addition to securing resources for the Fruitvale district, the Unity Council gained respectability and credibility within the Latino community, as well as among local, state and federal officials and private funding sources. As a result of the Unity Council's trailblazing role in the Fruitvale area, public and private social services agencies began to locate offices there for the first time. Furthermore, Unity Council representatives moved onto a variety of advisory groups in the East Bay, influencing policy, funding and resource allocation decisions while providing an empowering voice for Oakland's Latino community.

Ms. Gonzales' prolific career includes three decades of inspired leadership and advocacy. Raised in a small town in California's Central Valley, Gilda Gonzales is the youngest of five children. From an early age, Ms. Gonzales knew she wanted to go to college and enter public service. Her first government job was an internship in the office of Congressman Ron Dellums. Then, when 500 people applied for one-year fellowships at the California State Assembly, she was one of 12 selected. After working for several state assembly members, she left Sacramento in 1991 to assume the position of policy analyst with former Oakland Mayor Harris' office.

During her 14-year tenure in City Hall, Ms. Gonzales served in several capacities, including budget analyst, Assistant to the Finance Agency Director, and dual Chief of Staff for then-City Manager Robert Bobb and Mayor Jerry Brown. In 2001, she was named the City of Oakland's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, she was the City of Oakland's state legislative lobbyist and managed the City's contracted federal lobbyists. Throughout Ms. Gonzales' successful government career, where she was one of the highest-level Latinos working in City Hall, she