

maintained strong personal connections with community-based organizations in Fruitvale.

In December of 2004, when Ms. Gonzales became the Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Council, she brought to the position invaluable experience, an incredible vision, a penchant for creativity and an expertise in managing finances. As a result of her leadership, the Unity Council was able to overcome and stabilize a dire financial situation. Ms. Gonzales' quick thinking and strategic planning helped to create the solid foundation that the Unity Council enjoys today.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, Ms. Gilda Gonzales, I salute you. I am proud to call you a colleague, a constituent, and, most importantly, my friend. Thank you for your countless contributions and your never-ending commitment to our communities. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the best in this next chapter of life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARMY SPECIALIST ERIC HUNTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero in the truest sense of the word. This weekend, 24-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Eric Hunter returns home to Monroeville, Alabama for the first time since he sustained serious injuries from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

The day before his one-year wedding anniversary, Specialist Hunter was on patrol when he stepped on an IED. The May 31, 2012 blast took his right foot and eventually his right leg. He also suffered a shattered right wrist and left leg, as well as a broken forearm. The service and the sacrifice of this country's military personnel is both moving and inspiring. Specialist Hunter's dedication to his country is equally matched by his remarkable determination to recover from his wounds.

For Specialist Hunter, the road to recovery has been a long one. He was transported to three different hospitals in five days before being flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During his recovery at Walter Reed, he was visited by President Obama and other notables, including singer Neil Diamond.

It was also at Walter Reed that Specialist Hunter joined a special program that pairs famous musicians with wounded soldiers to assist their recovery. As a part of Musicorps, Specialist Hunter played his guitar with former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and G.E. Smith, former lead guitarist of Hall & Oates and Bob Dylan's touring band.

On November 8, 2012, Specialist Hunter took a seat on stage in the Beacon Theatre in New York City at the 6th Annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit playing alongside fellow wounded warriors and music legends Waters, Smith and Bruce Springsteen. The Annual Stand Up for Heroes event, sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, has so far raised over \$12 million for wounded soldiers.

In September 2012, I was honored to join Specialist Hunter, his wife, Kenna, and their

children Kensley and Jayce for breakfast in the U.S. Capitol, where I personally thanked him for his service to our country. Specialist Hunter also served a 2010–2011 tour in Iraq before his recent posting in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and the United States, I offer deep gratitude to Specialist Hunter for both his sacrifices for the security of America and his example to fellow wounded warriors as they return to their families and communities to re-enter civilian life. We are proud to welcome him home to Alabama.

HONORING ROB ELLSWORTH

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 team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. 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.

Rob Ellsworth served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for my entire first term. Although still a college student when he started, Rob's intelligence and deep understanding of complex issues was rivaled by few. Rob helped draft the SAVE Act, the most comprehensive piece of legislation I introduced in my first term. His ability to help me garner bipartisan support for a bill that excited deep and passionate public debate is a testament to his skill and value as a policy expert. Since his departure from my office, I have continued to lean on Rob for advice and support.

Rob 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 Rob and the team by my side.

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

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, November 11 through November 17, 2012, as American Education Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the millions of Americans who work every day to give our youth a world class public education.

American Education Week was first observed in 1921 by the National Education Association and the American Legion. Representatives of these organizations were concerned that a quarter of World War I draftees were illiterate, and they began a movement to raise awareness of the needs of public schools. Now in its 91st year, American Education Week is an annual reminder of the importance of community involvement in education.

As a former preschool teacher, I know firsthand of the challenges that face educators today. As classes grow and budgets shrink, teachers are often asked to do more with less. Nevertheless, millions of devoted Americans continue to serve our Nation's youth as teachers, administrators, and school personnel. I am continually impressed by their hard work and the tremendous impact they have on shaping future generations.

Ultimately, it is all of our responsibility to give our children a bright and well-rounded education. We all play a role in educating our Nation's children, from the parents who volunteer at school to community members who mentor and lead by example. During this month, let us also thank these dedicated individuals and encourage others to become similar community leaders as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in giving a heartfelt thank you to the hard-working teachers, school employees, mentors and parents of the 37th Congressional District as well as those across the nation. I encourage students, parents, and school officials to participate in the local events of American Education Week.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TERRY

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 and honor Albert Terry, for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Albert Terry came to Brooklyn by way of North Carolina in January 1936 with his parents Martha and Caswell Terry and three sisters, Lucy, Dorothy, and Ethel. Shortly after settling in Brooklyn, he joined Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and became active in the usher board, male chorus, senior choir, and briefly served as trustee.

Albert graduated from Boys High School in 1948. In September 1950 he met and married Zenith Tatum and had three children, Laura Denise, Albert Jr. and Douglas Clayton. He

and the family settled on Decatur Street where he joined the Decatur-Howard-Saratoga Block Association in October 1953. He was elected president, serving 1958–1959, then served again from 1983–1985.

From 1959 to 1967, Albert worked for the New York Transit Authority as a bus driver. In 1983 Albert was selected to join the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge. In July 1985, he joined the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Knights of the Mystic Shrine, Abu Bekr Temple No. 61 and served until 2005. He later worked briefly for Assemblyman William Boyland, Sr., going around to the various schools and day care centers to find out what they needed in the way of assistance or participating in events such as graduations and other affairs. Albert and Zenith celebrated 62 years of marriage on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Albert Terry for his successful career and continued work in service to the community.

HONORING MARILYN R. FELTON

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 Librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, who was born on July 30, 1962 in Natchez, Mississippi to Mr. Judge Rankin and Mrs. Annie James Rankin of Fayette, Mississippi. Her father worked as a farmer planting and growing the food that would feed the family, while her mother was an active part of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, faithfully fighting to secure the civil rights so that her children and others would have the right to a prosperous life. As a child being reared by a father who spent most of his life as a sharecropper and a mother who believed in fighting for the rights of others, she knew that hard work and dedication would play a significant role in her life.

She graduated from Jefferson County High School in 1980, after which she attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Mississippi for a short time. She set aside obtaining a college degree to work at a Wire Harness Plant in Fayette, Mississippi. She married Lee Felton in March 1984 and at the age of twenty-one, she realized the importance of the family. In doing so, she was blessed with three children to instill those same values in.

For the next six years, she would work at the Wire Harness, where she endured long hours of standing on concrete floors while working in a humid building that was sizzling hot during summer months and frigid cold during winter months. The Wire Harness Plant closed its door in 1990 and she used the fact that she was unemployed as an opportunity to continue her education.

Nevertheless, continuing her education was gradual because she worked at local stores as a cashier for the next few years; however, that did not fulfill her dream. In 1996 she returned to Copiah-Lincoln Community College to obtain a degree in Business Technology. In September 1997 her professional life provided her with an avenue to fulfill her dream of helping others when she was hired as a substitute Librarian with the Copiah-Jefferson Regional Li-

brary System (Fayette Branch). In September 1998, she was hired as the Branch Manager/Librarian.

In 1998, her mother, Mrs. Annie V. Rankin suddenly passed away and Marilyn knew she had to find a way to keep her mother's beliefs known, which she did by helping others. She successfully founded the Jefferson County Library Christmas Toy Drive in 2001 for underprivileged children of Jefferson Co. and surrounding areas. For ten years, the annual toy drive has been instrumental in providing an average of 200 children per year with toys for Christmas.

Her career as a Librarian has provided her an opportunity to visit libraries in the state of Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lacrosse, Wisconsin and Rome, Italy. As a librarian, she has worked effortlessly to provide programs for children and adults at the Jefferson County Library as well as expose the patrons to various authors from Mississippi, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

Marilyn cherishes the belief that learning is an ongoing process because she is presently a sophomore at Walden University, majoring in Child Development as she has maintained a 4.0 GPA since enrollment.

Nevertheless, the success of her life and career is to freely give of your wisdom and knowledge to those who need it and desire it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, for her dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE FISHMAN

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 team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. 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.

Julie Fishman served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for almost four years, beginning in 2008. Managing my schedule and daily functions in both D.C. and in the District requires a great deal of organization and attention to detail, and Julie performed the role with precision and skill. Often the first point of contact for folks in the District, Julie endeared herself to the countless constituents with whom she interacted. During her tenure, Julie served in various roles, always willing and eager to learn new skills and further her pro-

fessional development. Above all, Julie was a trusted, loyal and dedicated member of the team.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Julie Fishman for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DR.
J.H. FLAKES, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, Jr., an inspiring spiritual and community leader and the beloved Pastor of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for fifty-one years and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama for fifty-three years.

Sadly, Dr. Flakes passed away on Monday, November 12, 2012. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of his family, friends, and the Columbus and Phenix City communities. On Friday, November 16, 2012, a funeral service will be held in his honor at Fourth Street Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Flakes was born on January 12, 1934 in Phenix City, Alabama. His story is a truly inspiring one. As a young man, he dropped out of high school, married young, and was unable to adequately provide for his family due to alcohol and gambling addictions. However, he heard the sound of God's voice and answered the call, surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. He was called to the monumental task of pastoring two rapidly-growing churches in two different states. Even so, he still found the strength, discipline, and dedication to drive back and forth from Columbus to Nashville, Tennessee each week over four years to earn his GED and Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College, for which he would later go on to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and have the administration building on the school's campus named in his honor.

Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Dr. Flakes became a leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, served as President of the Congress of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia for many years and ultimately served on the Executive Committee Board of the National Baptist Convention. Dr. Flakes also received honorary doctorate degrees from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida and his alma mater, American Baptist College.

A fierce believer in equality and justice for all, Dr. Flakes was not only a profound theologian but also a strong civic leader. He served