

children. In addition, Leah's has been successful creating numerous partnerships with courts and human services to better utilize CASA volunteers.

In 2010, Leah was selected as the Staff Person of the Year by the State Association of CASA programs in Colorado. She also serves on numerous boards including Rewired, Inc., Leadership Jefferson County Alumni Association, Jefferson County Good News Coalition, Jefferson County Best Practice Court Team, and the Emancipation Court Steering Committee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leah Varnell for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARAY BROWN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor LaRay Brown for her track record in public service and her commitment to improving the community.

LaRay Brown is the Senior Vice President for Corporate Planning, Community Health and Intergovernmental Relations at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal public hospital system in the country. She has been acknowledged by Modern Healthcare as one of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare. LaRay Brown directs strategic-planning efforts for the corporation, and formulation and execution of legislative initiatives and advocacy strategies. Among the many corporate-wide initiatives that she led, Ms. Brown is spearheading the development of affordable and accessible housing on behalf of HHC's patients.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Commission on the Public's Health System's Marshall C. England Memorial Public Health Award in 2010 and the Community Health Care Association of New York State's Rosemarie Forstner Award in 2011.

She was a member of Governor Cuomo's health care transition team and his Medicaid Redesign Team Work Groups on Housing and Health Disparities. Ms. Brown also serves on the board of New York State Health Foundation.

Ms. Brown previously held leadership positions with the State of New Jersey including its Division of Mental Health and Hospitals and its Division of Youth and Family Services.

Ms. Brown graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and received her graduate training at the University of Pennsylvania Fets Center for Government Policy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. LaRay Brown for her successful career and continued work in service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I held the 10th Annual 26th Congressional District of Texas Transportation Summit along with the Texas Department of Transportation at the University of North Texas.

Transportation is always a popular topic of discussion in North Texas and for obvious reasons. With one of the world's largest airports, thousands of miles of roads, highways, rail lines, and several other modes of infrastructure, North Texans recognize the importance of transportation and its role in our region's continued growth.

This event provided a great conversation and I would like to thank:

The Texas Department of Transportation for cosponsoring and Texas Transportation Commissioner Jeff Moseley speaking at the event, as well as the University of North Texas for serving as host.

Other speakers and panelists for the summit who provided excellent insight into transportation issues: Andrew Harris, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of North Texas; Michael Morris, Transportation Director for the North Central Texas Council of Governments; Larry D. Tegtmeyer, Wichita Falls District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Bill Hale, Dallas District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Andy Eads, Commissioner Precinct 4, Denton County; Maribel Chavez, Fort Worth District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Gary Fickes, Commissioner Precinct 3, Tarrant County; Marc Williams, Director of Planning, Texas Department of Transportation; and Carlos Swonke, Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas Department of Transportation.

Congressman Steven LaTourette was gracious and keynoted the event. As Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, he provided a unique perspective and insight. I thank him for his time and information, and I would like to thank him for his service. Congress is losing such a great asset and I wish him well in the next chapter in his life.

North Texas is a rapidly growing area. As our population expands, our need for wider roads and highways also expands. I look forward to continuing this conversation and to working with local and state leaders on transportation issues.

#### RECOGNIZING CLARENCE BROWN

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the retirement of a lifelong civil servant, Clarence Brown. Clarence has selflessly served the citizens of Bartow County for more than 38 years, and his tenure as Bartow County Commissioner is the longest to date.

Clarence began his service with a plan and vision for Bartow County, and under his leadership it has flourished. Some highlights of his public service are the implementation of the county's growth management plan in 1996, the completion of Georgia Highlands College, and the development of the nation's first county-wide Environmental Management System.

Each of these accomplishments shaped Bartow County, but Clarence's legacy of leadership is truly defined by his character. He paid extraordinary attention to public input and cared deeply for the people he governed.

In recognition of Clarence's selfless service and commitment to the community, the county named the conference center in Cartersville in his honor. However, this was not an easy task given Clarence's humble nature!

It took the community, a judge, and Clarence's wife to convince him to agree to the dedication. To this day when asked about the Clarence Brown Conference Center, Clarence will humbly reply, "It's just a name on a building."

Through his philanthropic and civic contributions, Clarence's impact on our community is immeasurable. He has, and will, continue to lead our community with integrity and honor.

Clarence represents the best of the 11th District, the best of Georgia, and indeed the best of public servants. I am proud to call him a friend.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY WELCH

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kimberly Welch, a model servant of the needs of the public, a person dedicated to the importance of family, and native New Yorker.

Ms. Kimberly Welch has been working at the Health & Hospital Corporation for 22 years, beginning as an office aide and now Assistant Associate, providing much help in Mental Health Services to the citizens of Brooklyn. She has focused and devoted her time enlightening, understanding and caring for patients.

An advocate of education, Ms. Welch attended Boricua College in Brooklyn, where she earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in human services. She is active in her children's education and was elected vice president of the PTA at her children's school.

Ms. Welch has always had an interest in helping families, especially in underserved communities. Thinking about ways she could fulfill this desire, she joined an organization named "SomeMeTime", which allows her the ability to empower women. The annual Mother's Day Brunch provides mothers with a day of rest and relaxation. Ms. Welch also participates in programs that educate women on the importance of good health and hygiene.

Ms. Welch volunteers in a very special organization named "L.A.C.E. Leading Ladies" which is dear to her heart because her daughter is one of the founding members. This organization based in Brooklyn, collects, cleans, and distributes prom and graduation dresses to underprivileged junior high school girls throughout New York City. In the spring of

2012, they provided dresses to more than 625 young girls.

Ms. Welch enjoys the holidays and says it's her favorite and busiest time of the year. She participates in an annual turkey giveaway to the community and she helps feed less fortunate families on Thanksgiving Day. At Christmas, she assists with coordinating the distribution of toys for chronic substance abuse families and children with a history of mental illness. Kimberly is also affiliated with an organization that allows these families to have their photos professionally taken for their holiday memories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Kimberly Welch for her efforts advocating for the well-being of our disenfranchised fellow citizens.

DOT WRIGHT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dot Wright for her outstanding service to our community.

Since 2008 Dot has served as President and CEO of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Her successes have led to significant growth in the chamber's membership and outstanding efforts. In addition, Dot has worked tirelessly to create a better trained workforce for jobs of the 21st Century.

In 2011, Dot created the Jefferson County Business Education Alliance (JCBEA) which partners business owners and students with educational opportunities such as internships and job shadowing. Her vision led to a full-time position with the Jefferson County Department of Human Services tasked with expanding this successful program county-wide.

Dot is also involved with many community organizations. She serves on the Arvada Colts Board of Directors, Arvada Economic Development Association, Arvada Jefferson Kiwanis Club, the Arvada—Wheat Ridge Ambassadors for Youth and the Historic Olde Town Arvada Board of Directors. She also serves on my Small Business Advisory Committee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend Dot Wright for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROGER MORRIS CARTER

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the accomplished life of one of Louisiana's own, Roger Morris Carter. Born in Ferriday, La., to William Prentiss Carter, Jr. and Carolyn Rogers Carter, he attended Louisiana State University for both a B.S. in Agriculture (Entomology) in 1972 and M.S. in Plant Pathology in 1975. During this

time, he married his wife, Lise' Anne Clower on December 21, 1972. Their union later produced one son, Anthony Bronson Carter, who with his wife, Jessica Boyette, has given Roger and Lise' five grandchildren.

With an impressive foundation of scientific knowledge, a natural aptitude for working the land and a political astuteness uncommon in a single person, Roger's work has been instrumental in revolutionizing farming in Louisiana and throughout the country. As a highly sought after agricultural consultant, Roger pioneered the use of precision agriculture in our area by using electrical conductivity (EC) to separate soil types and developing "zones", so that the fertilizer and lime needs of the soil could be addressed precisely in each zone.

Additionally, Roger is a prominent member of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC), having served as both president and treasurer over the years. NAICC is widely respected for its impartial and independent views on topics related to agriculture. It was very influential in assisting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in creating the Worker Protection Standard regulations as well as Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Conservation Stewardship Program with various conservation measures. While Roger was treasurer of NAICC, he began "Dads in DC" which later became "Crawfish Boil on the Hill," an annual institution. Over 300 people attended this year, including six congressmen, and individuals from the House and Senate Ag Committee, EPA and United States Department of Agriculture staffers including those in NRCS and the Food Safety Administration.

Over his lifetime, Roger has been a member of scores of professional associations, and has received countless awards, while always maintaining his own farm and continuously giving back to his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life works of Roger Morris Carter and to wish him future success in all of his ventures.

### HONORING THE SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Santa Rosa Symphony on the occasion of its orchestral opening of the Green Music Center. The Green Music Center is a recently-completed music and art venue on the campus of Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. Named after Donald and Maureen Green, it is comprised of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall and the Schroeder Recital Hall as well as a multi-use education facility and an elegant hospitality center. The symphony made its debut performance as Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center on September 30, 2012.

In 1998, the Board of Directors of the Santa Rosa Symphony marked a new era by joining Sonoma State University to raise funds for a new concert hall. Although this was no easy task, persistence paid off. Donald Green has been the spirit of the project; start-up financial support and leadership from Don and his wife Maureen, the vision of Sonoma State Presi-

dent Ruben Arminana, and the assistance of Sandy and Joan Weill plus hundreds of supporters of the Santa Rosa Symphony has made the Center a reality. With this project, the symphony enhances its dream of being one of the leading regional symphony orchestras in America.

Fourteen years later, the completion of the Green Music Center and Weill Hall is an impressive and important step towards fulfilling that vision. On September 30th, the Santa Rosa Symphony celebrated 85 years of music and stepped over the threshold of its new home at the Green Music Center. The symphony also recognized three talented individuals who helped develop and usher in this new era: Conductor Emeritus Corrick Brown, Conductor Laureate Jeffrey Kahane and current Music Director Bruno Ferrandis.

The first performance was mesmerizing as Maestro Brown conducted Beethoven's overture, Consecration of the House as an appropriate beginning in the acoustically-superb Weill Hall, and Maestro Ferrandis took the podium for the remainder of the program. It included Ravel's Bolero, Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto performed by Kahane, Copland's great Canticle of Freedom, featuring the 100-voice Symphony Honor Choir, and ended with three encores.

To mark this long-awaited moment, the Symphony also commissioned an orchestral work by Petaluma resident and critically-acclaimed contemporary composer Nolan Gasser. His Sonoma Overture evoked the natural beauty of Sonoma County and recognized the energy and dynamism of its cities, industries and people.

This was truly a transformative moment that seldom is afforded any American orchestra—to call a world class concert hall its home, rivaling the Vienna Philharmonic's Musikverein concert hall and the Boston Symphony's Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood.

In addition to being a home for the symphony, the Center will serve as a venue to showcase excellent music from around the Bay Area and beyond. In fact, just a day before the symphony's opening performance, renowned Chinese pianist Lang Lang dazzled at the Green Music Center's grand opening with a one-night-only recital. And only a week later, on October 6th, Music Director Bruno Ferrandis partnered with the Kronos Quartet to perform Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Mahler's Symphony No. 1, Titan, and the world premiere of Concerto for String Quartet, Orchestra and Electronics, The Last Internal Combustion Engine by composer-in-residence Edmund Campion.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate the Santa Rosa Symphony for all its hard work. Truly a new dawn is breaking for this orchestra and for Sonoma County that will both invite and challenge them to new heights of artistic excellence and community engagement.

### TRIBUTE TO EVARISTO OLANREWAJU AKERELE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and pay tribute to Dr. Evaristo