

head football coach at Winnfield High School. Pyles's three grandchildren, Tyler, Dustin, and Kayla, were his pride and joy. Reverend Pyles was very much a family man who lived an honorable life, striving to lead by example and be the best he could be, personally and professionally.

Reverend Pyles's passion in life was serving God and people. He lived this passion every day through his work, while serving as a pastor of 10 different Methodist churches, on the board of the United Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, at the General Secretary of the United Christian Ashram, on the Executive Committee for the World Methodist Council, as Ruston District Supervisor, and in his daily life as a husband, parent, and grandparent, among many other posts he has occupied. He gave freely and generously of himself and his time, and the world is truly a better place for his efforts.

In the letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to Timothy, (2 Timothy 2:8–13), Paul says "If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him." As we remember Reverend Pyles, there can be no doubt that he lived and died in his faith. Reverend Pyles's life is an example to all of us.

To say that he left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. Reverend Pyles brought peace, joy, and spiritual life to so many, and he will live in our hearts forever.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
(U.S. ARMY-RET) LEE F. KICHEN)

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army-Ret) Lee F. Kichen of Sarasota, Florida. Colonel Kichen is a great American who recently retired after decades of service to his country and his fellow veterans.

Colonel Kichen most recently served as a state service officer with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in St. Petersburg. He was also the VFW's state legislative chairman. Successive VFW Commanders in Chief also appointed Lee to the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, National By-Laws and Resolutions Committee, Veterans Services Resolution Committee and the National Legislative Committee. In these positions, he has been a tireless and effective advocate for our Veterans.

As a state service officer for the VFW and in a previous position as a veterans service officer for Sarasota County, Lee has helped countless veterans and their families obtain from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, such as disability compensation, pensions, health care, and vocational and rehabilitation training.

I had the privilege of working with Lee in his capacity as VFW legislative chairman on several issues, including the establishment of a national cemetery in Sarasota to ensure area veterans are laid to rest with the respect and dignity they deserve and passage of the Post 9/11 GI bill to provide service men and women who have served in active duty since Sep-

tember 11, 2001 with additional education benefits similar to those provided in the G.I. bill.

Lee is a native of Framingham, Massachusetts.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Master of Arts degrees from Pacific Lutheran University and Chapman University.

In addition to his civilian education, Lee is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

He retired from the United States Army in 1997 after twenty-seven years of service as an Armor officer. He served in various command and staff positions in the Continental United States and overseas.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, with one oak leaf cluster; the Meritorious Service Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal and the Korea Defense Service Medal. He also wears the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, the Bronze Medallion of the Order of St. George, and the Silver Medallion of the Order of St. George.

He is a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Children's Home, the Military Officers Association of America and the Military Order of the World Wars.

He is also a member of the Jewish War Veterans, the AMVETS, the American Legion, the Association of the United States Army, the Armor Association, the United States Cavalry Association, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Lee is on the Board of Directors of the 3rd Cavalry Association. He served as President of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission from 1999–2002. He is the Vice Chairman of the Sarasota National Cemetery Advisory Committee. He also serves on Senator George Lemieux's and Congressman VERN BUCHANAN's Service Academy Selection Boards.

He was recognized by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3233 as its Man of the Year, Elks Lodge #2495 as its Citizen of the Year, the Bradenton-Sarasota Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars with the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Service and by the Sarasota County Veterans Commission as its Veteran of the Year.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th District, I thank Lee for his dedicated service to our nation and wish him and his wife Carol a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT GRAHAM

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 to honor to Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham for his dedication and commitment to his country.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, New York in 1981. On February 23, 1982 he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. After graduating Recruit Training, Private First Class Graham transferred to the U.S. Army Transportation School in Fort Eustis, VA for training in his occupational field.

In September 1982 after he was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp S.D. Butler, Okinawa Japan, Graham was promoted to Lance Corporal and subsequently meritoriously promoted to Corporal. On December 1, 1985 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant after being transferred to Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. In 1996 he was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. On May 1, 2001 he was promoted to Master Sergeant and was ultimately promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant in February of 2006.

His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unity Commendation Ribbon 2nd Award, Navy Meritorious Unity Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal 8th Award, National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, South West Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon 6th Award, Navy Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon, Drill Instructor Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) and the Iraq campaign medal.

On December 16, 2011 Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham retired from the Marine Corps after thirty years of Active Service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Master Gunnery Sergeant Graham for his outstanding service to our country.

MARGOT ZALLEN

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 Margot Zallen for her outstanding service to our community.

Upon receiving her J.D. from the DU College of Law, Margot began working as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI), representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Margot rose through the ranks for 33 years until her retirement last year as a senior attorney.

While representing the FWS, Margot worked on many controversial and significant cases passionately protecting wildlife, endangered species and their habitats in Colorado and across the nation. Margot has been tasked with many leadership roles within Colorado such as the creation of the Lookout Mountain Water District, the Jefferson County Open Space Program, and in 1972 helped found Plan Jeffco.

Margot also facilitated the acquisition, settlement and protection of North Table Mountain and was a founding member of the Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE). CARE works to protect the foothills and its mountain backdrops of Jefferson County.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Margaret Zallen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County and thank her for her many contributions to our community. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING LYNN BRANTLEY,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lynn Brantley, co-founder, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank, who will retire at the end of the year.

Ms. Brantley helped found the Capital Area Food Bank 32 years ago and has worked tirelessly to feed the hungry and serve those in need. The Capital Area Food Bank started as a small operation serving a few thousand people and today is the largest supplier of food to people suffering from hunger in the Washington metro area. I had the privilege of working with Ms. Brantley many times over the years to fight hunger in northern Virginia, including in 2009 when we established Feds Feed Families food drive, a national canned food drive conducted by federal employees around the country that has collected more than 20 million pounds of food.

I want to commend Lynn for her leadership in addressing the serious challenge of hunger and I extend my deepest gratitude for her service to our community. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

I also submit a recent Washington Post article on Ms. Brantley's outstanding career.

[From The Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2012]

WASHINGTON-AREA HUNGER SEEN AS
WORSENING

(By Robert McCartney)

As she prepares to retire, Lynn Brantley, 70, ought to be satisfied with her standout career as a Washington area do-gooder.

Driven by the religious teachings of her Pennsylvania Dutch upbringing, Brantley has worked for 32 years as a key leader feeding the hungry in our region. A co-founder and longtime chief executive of the Capital Area Food Bank, she helped transform a small operation that served a few thousand people into a giant clearinghouse that collects and helps distribute groceries to nearly half a million needy.

Despite that success, Brantley remains unsatisfied. She's distressed that after so many years, the extent of hunger in our region is much more widespread than when she began.

It used to be that families who relied on charity for food were concentrated in inner-city neighborhoods with entrenched poverty. Now the dependence has spread to numerous lower middle-class neighborhoods in the suburbs.

It's a sobering thought for those of us fortunate enough to worry mainly about what the scale will say after we pack away too many mashed potatoes at the Thanksgiving feast.

"I can say now that the problem seems 10 times worse than it did when I started out. It's a terrible way to be leaving, to be thinking that people are worse off than when we

began," Brantley said in an interview Thursday.

"It's the economy; it's what's happening with the middle class. That's who's coming to our agencies now," she said. "These are people who are maybe working two and three jobs, and can't make ends meet. These are people who've been laid off."

Brantley was mostly earnest and matter-of-fact as she reflected on her career in an interview in her office at the food bank's brand-new, sprawling warehouse near Catholic University in Northeast. She is stepping down at the end of the year, to be succeeded by Nancy E. Roman, an executive at the UN World Food Programme.

Brantley rattled off statistics about hunger and offered sociological analysis of why the problem continues to exist. But her voice cracked and she turned visibly emotional at several points when she recalled the need that she's witnessed.

It happened when she described seeing children at an after-school meals program at a low-income housing community in North-east.

"They sit down and they just use their hands to stuff their mouths, because they don't get an evening meal. People don't realize the conditions and what people are facing," Brantley said.

As she spoke, trucks at nearby loading docks were delivering fresh produce, canned and dry goods and other food and household items that the food bank buys or receives as donations. Some is "salvage" food, in slightly dented containers or with nearing use-by dates.

At other docks, trucks carried away the food to 700 nonprofit organizations including food pantries, faith-based groups, churches and community centers. They give away bags or boxes of groceries to the needy in the District, Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland.

The modern, 123,000-square-foot facility is quite a contrast to the cramped, leaky warehouse where Brantley and others launched the food bank in 1980 in response to cuts in federal food stamp programs. The operation had two volunteers and used shovels to unload trucks.

Brantley became chief executive in 1988. Today the food bank has a staff of 133 and uses forklifts.

Brantley was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s before she got involved in hunger issues as a food stamp outreach coordinator in Prince George's County. Her motivation to help the underprivileged sprang from her roots in York County, Penn.

"I went to a Lutheran parochial school and my grandparents were Quakers, so I was ingrained with a sense of the gospel in terms of where I came from and what I did," Brantley said. She said food is "just a profound, moral right that people should have."

Although she tried to avoid saying anything overtly political, it was clear she wished the government would take a bigger role in helping the needy.

"This is an important point, and something for people to really remember. Back in the '70s, before the [food stamp] cuts came, hunger had nearly been obliterated in this country," Brantley said. "When the cuts came, we as a country have never rebounded from that."

Now Brantley is looking forward to moving to a Quaker retirement community in Lewes, Del. She hopes to spend more time with her five grandchildren, and to enjoy her hobbies of bicycling and bird watching.

She says she worries about the focus in Washington on cutting spending for domestic programs. "We're looking at cuts coming down the road. It's going to be hurting the most vulnerable people," she said.

At least she can comfort herself that she devoted her life's work to softening the blow.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WHITTAKER
MACK III

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 to honor Mr. Whittaker Mack III who's talents and service have been of great value to his community.

Whittaker Mack III was born in New York City, the oldest of two children Whittaker Mack is a retired NYC Sanitation foreman and real estate developer, and the late Ethel Devone Mack, a real estate developer and homemaker. His sister, Tiffany, is a math teacher in the NYC school system. He has been a resident of New York his entire life. He began his educational career in the Lutheran private schooling system from kindergarten through eighth grade. He graduated from August Martin High in 1984.

Whittaker is the current Chairperson for the Urban Resource Institute, a major non-profit organization dedicated to assisting families affected by domestic violence, mental development issues, and substance abuse. He is an active member of the Male Usher Ministry in the Greater Allen Cathedral since 2008 and has been actively attending Allen since 1982. In other community activities, Whittaker is the chairperson for Duke University's Alumni Advisory Committee for Orange and Rockland Counties of New York, the Immediate Past President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—Eta Zeta Lambda of Westchester County Chapter lifetime member of the National Black MBA Association, and an active member in local Rotarian Clubs and Chamber of Commerce organizations.

Whittaker received his Bachelor's Degree from Duke University and Master's of Business Administration in finance and wealth management at Fordham University Graduate School of Business. Currently, Whittaker is employed as Vice President, JP Morgan Securities, LLC as a financial advisor in the Wall Street area. Prior to Chase, he worked in the financial services industry with Merrill Lynch and LPL. Before working in the financial services industry, he started his career in the pharmaceutical industry in a variety of roles including analytical research chemist, formulation research scientist, production manager, plant manager, and a pharmaceutical representative.

He is happily married to Keisha Mack, a Clinical Nurse Manager for United Health Care, and currently resides in Rockland County New York. In his free time, Whittaker enjoys playing sports, mainly golf and baseball, and traveling the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Whittaker Mack III for his valuable contributions to his community.