

city's economic development, its transportation problems, and the citizens' overall quality of life. In addition to his many daily tasks as Mayor, Mayor Ridenour also served as chair of the Audit Committee for the Modesto City Council.

Mayor Ridenour further demonstrated his commitment to public service during his tenure as the 2010–2011 President of the League of California Cities. He demonstrated true leadership by bringing leaders together to address regional and State challenges.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to the City of Modesto by its long-time public servant, Mayor Jim Ridenour. He has been a true inspiration to those he has served; and although he has completed his service as Mayor, I know he will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around him.

REMEMBERING JOHN FALLON

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of John Fallon. John Fallon, whose integrity, love of politics and trusting eyes guided him through a successful career in the Cook County Assessor's Office, passed away on January 11, 2012, after heroically battling cancer since 2004.

John battled cancer on three different occasions since 2004, but refused to give up his fight for life. He once said he considered cancer to be a "blessing because you appreciate everything so much more." His life was never defined by his illness, but rather by his commitment to his family, his skillful baking, his love of the bagpipes and his dedication to politics.

John never let cancer get in the way of living every moment of his life to the fullest. He participated in Chicago's Polar Plunge fully clothed while playing the bagpipes, a challenge few are brave enough to tackle. He trained and ran in two marathons, successfully completing the Chicago marathon in 2008, a feat few healthy people achieve. John also continued to help others in need by serving in a soup kitchen and working with Immersion's Angels to help people fight the disease with which he had become so familiar. John taught us all how to live the life we are given regardless of the obstacles we face.

May Mr. John Fallon rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA AND PAULA MCGEE

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to two women of exceptional talent and character—Ms. Pamela McGee and Ms. Paula McGee.

Always committed to excellence, the McGee twins, as they came to be known, are often recognized for their accolades in women's

basketball. At the University of Southern California they teamed up with Cheryl Miller and Cynthia Cooper to win two back-to-back National Championships in 1983 and 1984.

Equally as impressive are the McGee sister's lives off the court after her life in basketball, Paula McGee pursued her life's calling to preach. She was also the co-founder of Christian Business Success Network, a nonprofit organization that specialized in training and providing support for Christian business leaders. After winning a Gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Pamela McGee served as Executive Director of the non-profit Save the Children or Perish (S.T.O.P.), a grassroots organization that helped her to become an elected official as a School Board Member in Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, Paula and Pamela McGee are two great American role models who I am proud to have in my District.

KANKAKEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in celebration of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau, which is set to celebrate its 100th Annual meeting on March 15, 2012. This exemplary organization was created during a public meeting at the Kankakee County Courthouse on May 29, 1912 and continues to enrich our community today.

Since its formation, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has pursued a mission to "Improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life." I am proud to say that the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has more than met these goals throughout its many years of service.

For the past 100 years the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has been working for our agriculture community to improve efficiency, profitability, safety, and quality of life. Today, a number of directors throughout the county maintain that course, and I congratulate and thank each of those members for recognizing the freedom, dignity and equal opportunity afforded to all individuals throughout our area. Those directors include:

District 1: Rockville Township, Jon Whitten; Manteno Township, Greg St. Aubin

District 2: Sumner Township, Gene Rademacher; Yellowhead Township, Keith Mussman, President

District 3: Essex Township, Marty Joyce; Salina Township, Patrick Joyce

District 4: Bourbonnais Township, Gary Paarlberg; Limestone Township, Mark Tanner

District 5: Norton Township, Patrick Koerner; Pilot Township, Sterling Bouchard

District 6: Kankakee Township, Steve Benoit; Otto Township, Bret Perreault

District 7: Aroma Township, Mike Bourgeois; Saint Anne Township, Duane Oosterhoff

District 8: Ganeer Township, Kevin Yohnka, Vice President; Momence Township, Paula Karlock, Secretary-Treasurer; and Pembroke Township, Brian Dandurand

Once again, I am humbled to have the opportunity to congratulate the Kankakee County

Farm Bureau for reaching its centennial milestone. The farm bureau truly is an extraordinary group, serving our community in every facet of life.

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ATF SPECIAL AGENT JOHN CAPANO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge a true American hero, ATF Special Agent John Capano, who was killed this past New Year's Eve attempting to stop an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Seaford, New York, the community where he was raised and lived for many years.

I had the privilege of knowing John, his parents, and his brother and sisters for more than 40 years. My wife Rosemary was John's 4th grade teacher.

John Capano died as he lived—putting his life on the line to protect others. He was a 23-year veteran of the ATF, with an extremely distinguished record not only at home but overseas as well. An explosives expert, John volunteered to serve on ATF missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia and Peru. Several years ago I had the honor of presenting John with an award for his overseas deployments.

On the fateful day of December 31, 2011 John Capano was off duty. He went to Charlie's Pharmacy on Merrick Road in Seaford to pick up cancer medication for his 82-year-old father, Jimmy, a retired NYPD Detective. While John was in the pharmacy, a recently released ex-convict and drug addict displayed what he said was a gun, and demanded prescription drugs. As the robber attempted to exit, John identified himself as a law enforcement officer. The robber was shot in the leg and a struggle ensued on the sidewalk outside the front door. Other off-duty law enforcement officials arrived during the struggle; shots were fired; and John Capano and the robber were both killed.

John Capano's death caused great sorrow and sadness in the Seaford Community; in the neighboring community of Massapequa where John lived with his wife Dori and their two children, John and Natalie; and throughout the entire law enforcement community in the New York-Long Island region. Thousands of mourners attended John's funeral on January 6th and our community is still overcome with grief.

This has been a particularly anguishing time for the Capano family. John's mother Helen had died just 15 days before his death. Like John, though, the Capano family is strong and unflinching. To ensure that John did not die in vain, they are dedicated to doing whatever they can to eliminate the epidemic of prescription drug abuse on Long Island.

In closing, let me extend my sincere condolences to the family of John Capano. May he always be in our thoughts and prayers and may he rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre by Armenian armed forces on February 25–26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the occupation of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. In addition, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: “Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.”

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: “While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. This anniversary reminds us of the need to redouble efforts to help resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group should continue to stay engaged in the resolution of this protracted conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my col-

leagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALBANY MARINE BAND—MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of our nation's most prestigious and accomplished United States Marine Corps bands—the Albany Marine Band stationed at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. After 22 years of distinguished service, members of the Albany Marine Band will be performing a farewell concert on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at the Albany Municipal Auditorium at 7 p.m. in Albany, Georgia.

The farewell concert has been titled “Thanks for the Memories” and admission to the event is free. The musical performance will feature many of the band's greatest hits from over the last several years, including many of the group's most notable award-winning pieces.

Mr. Speaker, last December, amid budgetary constraints, it was announced by the Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., that the Albany Marine Band would be cut along with the Marine Corps band stationed at Twentynine Palms, California. Although their mission is coming to an end, the Albany Marine Band's legacy of musical excellence will not soon be forgotten.

Over the last couple decades, the members of the Albany Marine Band have honorably represented our country and been recognized repeatedly for their harmonious innovations and inspiring melodic renditions. In December of 2003, the band was awarded the distinguished Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award. This prestigious award recognized the members of the Albany Marine Band for their pride and commitment in performing their duties.

In 2010 and 2011, the Albany Marine Band was recognized as the United States Marine Corps Band of the Year. Additionally, in 2011, the band also received the “Best Live Recording Award” in a competition among the twelve United States Marine Corps bands.

Due to their musical excellence, the Albany Marine Band has performed at locations throughout the United States and around the world. The band has traveled more than fifty thousand miles to perform over one hundred commitments in destinations such as Essex Junction, Vermont; New Orleans, Louisiana; San Antonio, Texas; and the Statue of Liberty in Liberty, New York. It is also worth noting that the Albany Marine Band was given the great honor of being selected to represent the United States in 2004 as it performed for the Changing of the Guard at the Citadel in Quebec City, Canada.

The Albany Marine Band has also performed for nationwide audiences during per-

formances on Good Morning America and at the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the exceptional musical achievements and patriotic commitment of the members of the Albany Marine Band. These fine men and women have served as excellent ambassadors for our country and the United States Marine Corps and I will remain eternally grateful to them for their many noteworthy accomplishments and selfless acts of service.

THANK YOU TO OUR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION NEW DAWN VETERANS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation while conducting combat operations in Iraq over the past 9 years. From March 20, 2003 until December 31, 2011 our Nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn while serving in Iraq. During this time they disarmed and removed Saddam Hussein from power, freed a country and its people from years of suffering under an oppressive dictatorship, and fought a brutal insurgency. Many members of our all-volunteer force, the greatest all-volunteer force in history, served multiple combat tours in Iraq during this time with little dwell time at home.

More than 1.5 million members of the United States Armed Forces served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn conducting operations against a dangerous and determined enemy force. 4,474 members of the United States Armed Forces made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn and 32,223 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded during almost 9 years of military operations in Iraq. During this time four Medals of Honor, the highest United States award for military valor, were awarded for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, additionally, at least 327 Silver Stars, 21 Navy Crosses, and 15 Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces.

I stand today to recognize the tremendous personal sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, many of whom were committed to multiple deployments away from loved ones, and the contributions of military families on the home front. The bravery and service of our all-volunteer force, the best and the brightest that our Nation has to offer, adds to the enduring legacy of the proud history of our armed forces. I am committed to honoring the memory of these heroes for their courage and sacrifice. To all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, welcome home and thank you for your service to the United States of America.